

Two Chinese killed in Algeria

GIERS (AFP) — Two Chinese nationals were killed Monday by an armed Islamic group at Al Harrach in the eastern suburbs of Algiers, government officials said here. The dead men were technicians working on a dam near Tipaza west of the capital, the officials said. They were identified as Qian Younyang, 35, and an interpreter, Lin Kaifu, 63. The men were in a vehicle when they were fired upon by a group of armed men. Two of the gunmen were killed by police, who chased their vehicle for several kilometres, officials said. It was the first time Chinese nationals have been killed in Algeria in an Islamic militant attack. Two other Chinese nationals disappeared in March and there has been no news of their whereabouts. Islamic fundamentalists announced Sunday they had kidnapped the founding editor of an Algerian astrology magazine, which their religion considers akin to witchcraft. In the first action of this kind, the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) said in a statement to AFP that it had abducted the director of Horoscope-Mysteres, Brahim Taouchiche, adding that an "Islamic tribunal" would try him for unspecified crimes.

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Israeli warplanes
attack S. Lebanon

NABATTIYEH (AP) — Israeli warplanes blasted suspected hideouts of guerrillas in South Lebanon Monday, security sources said. The sources said two fighter jets fired two missiles on Jabal Rafit in Iqlim Al Tufah at 4:10 p.m. Iqlim Al Tufah is a stronghold of Hizbollah which spearheads a guerrilla warfare to dislodge Israel from an enclave it occupies in South Lebanon as a "security zone." In Israel, the army command confirmed the attack. There was no immediate word on casualties from the air strike. In 32 previous attacks on Lebanon this year, 66 people were killed and 241 wounded, by Lebanese police count.

Fateh killed 11
"collaborators" — Rabin

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The armed wing of Yasser Arafat's mainstream group Fateh has killed 11 Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel in the past few months, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Monday. The executions were carried out by the Fateh Hawks in the seclude area of Jericho in the West Bank, Mr. Rabin told the parliamentary foreign and defence committee here. "We take these assassinations very seriously," he said, quoted by military radio. Mr. Rabin has decided for this reason to postpone negotiations with the PLO on further releases of Palestinian prisoners, the radio said.

Egypt-Palestine
panel to meet

CAIRO (AFP) — The Egyptian-Palestinian joint committee will meet here next week, the local Middle East News agency (MENA) reported Monday. MENA quoted Adel Al Sufti, the economic affairs assistant to the foreign minister, as saying that the committee will discuss the implementation of the economic and trade agreement signed here between the two sides last January. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa will head the Egyptian delegation in the talks, while his Palestinian counterpart Farouk Kaddoumi will lead the Palestinian team, Mr. Sufti said. Mr. Sufti said officials from various ministries have been meeting in the Foreign Ministry here to discuss Egyptian development projects in the autonomous Gaza Strip.

Six strangled in
Frankfurt brothel

FRANKFURT (R) — Five women and one man were found strangled to death in a high-class brothel in downtown Frankfurt on Monday police said. The women had all been working at the brothel on Sunday night and the man had apparently run the private sex club, located in a shuttered villa near the Frankfurt banking district. "As far as we can make out from the people were all strangled," police spokesman Peter Oehm told reporters at the scene of the crime. It was not yet clear how they were strangled or how many people had been involved in the murder. Mr. Oehm described the brothel as "a sort of private club to which usually only insiders have access."

Iranian Airbus case
adjudged sine die

THE HAGUE (AFP) — The International Court of Justice here adjudged Monday sine die hearings into the July 1988 downing of an Iranian airliner by a U.S. warship with the loss of 290 lives. The case, scheduled to begin Sept. 12, was shelved at the request of both Iran, which had brought the incident before the U.N.'s highest judicial body in May 1989, and the United States, the court said in a statement. A spokesman for the U.S. embassy here said the public hearings had been adjourned to an as yet unspecified date.

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز
عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية
الرائدة

King: Jordan has every right to live and prosper
HM says Jerusalem shrines too vital an issue that could have been delayed

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Monday that Jordan had sacrificed more than any other country in the Middle East conflicts and had every right to exercise its options to live and prosper, away from tension and based on a just, durable and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

King Hussein, in an address to officers from the Fifth Royal Armoured Division, also said that Jordan does not compete with anyone over Jerusalem and that the Kingdom's links with the Islamic shrines in the Holy City were "eternal and deep in our heart, mind and conscience."

Religious sovereignty over the shrines is a right of the entire Islamic Ummah in line with the Omari covenant and Jerusalem should be above all political considerations, the King said.

Noting that many Jordanians have been sacrificed for Jerusalem, the King pointed out that his great grandfather Al Hussein Ben Ali, who gave his life in

support of the Palestinians and the Palestinian cause to ensure their right on their national soil, was buried near Al Aqsa Mosque.

The King expressed hope that a just and honourable solution would be reached for the Palestinian problem in general and the issue of Jerusalem in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 242.

Reaffirming Jordan's quest for a negotiated settlement to the Middle East conflict, the King noted that the Kingdom extended its umbrella to the Palestinians so that they could attend the peace process launched in Madrid in 1991. "It was difficult and even impossible for the Palestinians to exercise their right to represent themselves had it not been for the Jordanian umbrella," the King said.

However, the Palestinians "surprised us and opted to go their own way and to address their problems and issues in isolation from us," said the King referring to the secret Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) negotia-



His Majesty King Hussein on Monday addresses the Fifth Royal Armoured Division (Armed Forces photo)

tions that produced the autonomy agreement in September 1993.

"We started from the same point where the Lebanese, the Syrians, and the Palestinians started in Madrid until the Palestinians, represented

by their sole and legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), acted on their own and signed the Palestinian-Israeli accord in Washing-

ton," the King said. "Jordan later agreed on

the Jordanian-Israeli agenda, but at the same time did not compromise its firm and solid position, calling for a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the region," the King noted.

Jordan's participation in the peace process has enabled it to regain its territorial and water rights, he said.

The King called for maintaining national unity, saying that the Jordanian family reflects the "genuine picture of the immigrants and the sup-

Red Crescent ready for pipeline deal

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's Red Crescent society said Monday it was ready to help distribute humanitarian aid to Iraq, a move that could ease the deadlock over a U.N. plan to flush Iraqi oil from the trans-Turkey pipeline. "We are ready to organise and handle distribution when and if agreement is reached," a senior Red Crescent official told Reuters. "As far as I know the Iraqis are in favour of the scheme but it is not the Red Crescent's decision," he said. Senior Turkish and Iraqi diplomats held talks in Ankara last week to further the plan of flushing the oil to repair and maintain the rusting pipeline from Kirkuk to Turkey's Mediterranean terminals. The sticking point is Iraq's rejection of U.N. demands that the world body monitor fair distribution of food and medicine to dissident Kurds and other ethnic groups. Iraq says U.N. supervision would violate its sovereignty. "The Red Crescent can handle the operation in the north and other parts of Iraq if necessary. Since last year we have been delivering humanitarian supplies to 1.5 million people in the north," the relief official said.

Jordan, Israel study security proposals

Progress reported on civil aviation, linkage of power grids

From Nermeen Murad at The Moriah Plaza Dead Sea Hotel

AS JORDAN and Israel entered into the second round of bilateral talks at this Dead Sea resort, subcommittees on both "rights" and "cooperation" registered varied degrees of progress in their talks.

The slowest progress was in negotiations over water and boundaries, while the economic committee and the civil aviation committee appear to be set to reach agreement by the end of this round of bilateral Thursday.

Although the top Israeli and Jordanian water negotiators had agreed to the "content" of their talks in Wadi Araba in June, the wrangling between the two sides over scarce water resources has not become any easier.

While both sides had declared in Wadi Araba that they have agreed to the "mutual recognition of right-ful shares in the Jordan River and Yarmouk River," the Israeli side appears now to have sidelined this recognition to what it considers a

more "pragmatic" concern.

Israeli negotiators want their water talks with Jordan to deal primarily with finding and cultivating new sources of water for both states main-taining that even if it was to allocate a fair water share to Jordan that would not be enough to solve the problem of water in the area.

Jordanians do not disagree with Israelis over the fact that water is scarce and that cooperation is necessary to "improve the quality of available water sources," as one Israeli water negotiator termed it.

But, Jordan insists that to reach the point where it is ready to cooperate with Israel on cultivating new water sources, it needs to have resolved the problem of the Kingdom's water "rights."

And it is not a new Jordanian position. In fact if Jordan was to highlight any kind of progress in its negotiations over water it would be over the recognition of its right to water in the Jordan River.

Israel, since its occupation

of the West Bank in 1967, has diverted all the water from the Jordan River and has refused all Jordanian protests that it also has a right to utilise water from that river which forms a natural border "between the two states."

Israeli negotiators, asked by the press whether Israel is ready to deliver on Jordan's right to water shares, brush aside the question and press ahead with their argument for concentrating on developing new water resources.

Jordanian negotiators dismiss the Israeli comments and say that actual negotiations are over the "rightful allocation of water" and the exact amounts that Jordan will receive from not only the two rivers but also other water sources such as underground basins.

"The two sides are negotiating rights and not cooperation," a Jordanian negotiator on water told the Jordan Times.

"The water talks are definitely difficult talks," said Dr. Marwan Muasher,

spokesperson of the Jordanian delegation. "But they have not reached a stalemate."

"It is difficult to reach a stalemate," he said explaining that a "stalemate only happens when the two sides have exhausted all options. This has not happened."

"We are as interested as Israelis are in cooperating in finding new sources of water," he said but he added that Jordan insists on resolving the water problem first.

On another level, the chief Israeli security committee negotiator, Uri Dayna told Jordanian reporters that Jordan had agreed to an Israeli proposal that would commit the two countries to three security principles:

— That each state pledges not to threaten its neighbour-ing state;

— That neither state becomes member of any military coalition that would threaten the security of the other state;

— That neither side allow its territory to be used as a launching pad for attacks on the other.

Jordanian sources confirm that the first principle was established in the common agenda signed between Jordan and Israel in 1993. They, however, did not confirm that Jordan had accepted the two other principles although they said the Israelis did bring in these proposals to Monday's security negotia-tions.

"It is all in the proposals stage," a Jordanian negotiat-ing source told the Jordan Times.

In the civil aviation talks which aim to determine the routes for Jordanian planes using Israeli air space, Jordanian sources said that the Kingdom had given the Israeli side five options to study during last week's negotiations.

"We did receive an answer on these options today but we still find their proposals unsatisfactory," Dr. Muasher told reporters.

While Dr. Muasher would not delve into the details of the "dissatisfaction" other sources had told the Jordan

Carlos arrested
in Sudan, sent
to French prison

Combined agency dispatches

PARIS — Carlos the Jackal, the most wanted man of the past 20 years, was arrested in Sudan and flown to France, where he stands convicted of killing two counter-intelligence agents, authorities said Monday.

Carlos, 44, born Illich Ramirez Sanchez in Venezuela, had been under surveillance in Khartoum, the Sudanese capital, on suspicion of planning attacks on foreign targets before France asked Sudan to arrest him, Sudan said.

Sudanese government spokesman Abu Baker Al Shingiet told the Associated Press in London that Carlos was arrested "in the past few days" along with several other people. He refused to say how many others were arrested, where they were from, or whether they were still in Sudan.

Interior Minister Charles Pasqua said Carlos was extradited from Sudan more than six months after French intelligence traced him to there. "At the start of the year my services were informed with great precision of the possible presence of the terrorist in Sudan, which he had entered using false papers."

"We hoped on several occasions that Carlos would be handed over to us. Several times our hopes were disappointed."

Asked why his extradition had taken so long to bring about, Mr. Pasqua said that negotiations with Khartoum had been "complicated." He declined to elaborate further.

Carlos is considered the master strategist behind a



1975 photo of "Carlos" wave of deadly and often audacious attacks in the 1970s and early 1980s centred on Western Europe and linked with the Middle East conflicts.

After two decades on the run, he was Monday afternoon under lock and key in Paris's Sante prison, prison officials said.

He was earlier questioned in the headquarters of the French counter-intelligence agency DSI under an international arrest warrant issued in connection with a 1982 attack in Paris which left one person dead and 63 injured, sources said.

Mr. Pasqua told journalists that Carlos — whom he described as a "professional terrorist" — himself claimed to have killed 83 people world-wide.

Mr. Pasqua added that Carlos, who he charged had been supported by several foreign states, would appear Tuesday before Jean-Louis Bruguiere, the Paris examining magistrate who issued the international arrest warrant.

PLO launches crackdown on Hamas

Combined agency dispatches

GAZA CITY — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) got tough with its rival Hamas on Monday for the first time since the launch of self-rule, arresting dozens of its members in an unprecedented crackdown aimed at ending anti-Israeli attacks.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat personally ordered the overnight sweep in the Gaza Strip after the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, claimed two attacks on Sunday which killed an Israeli and wounded seven others. Three soldiers were also wounded in a bomb attack on the West Bank on Monday.

The crackdown drew a stiff warning from Hamas.

Ibrahim Ghosheh, a Jordan-based spokesman for Hamas, said that Mr. Arafat's self-rule authority has arrested 35 group members. He said that the Palestinian police force in the autonomous territories of Gaza and Jericho had started collecting arms from Palestinians, leaving them vulnerable to attacks by Jewish settlers and the Israeli army.

"It's a serious crackdown launched by Arafat" against Palestinian mujahadeen, or holy warriors, "and it comes in response to Israeli and other pressures exercised on

the PLO to control Hamas," Mr. Ghosheh told the Associated Press.

"We had Arafat responsible for the latest developments," he said. "He'll be responsible for the negative consequences of his actions."

"We've been keen to avoid any Palestinian-Palestinian friction since the outset of the so-called peace negotiations," Mr. Ghosheh said.

But, "since Mr. Arafat is cracking down on the Mujahadeen of Hamas and other Palestinian factions... we're left with no choice... he will have no one but himself to blame for the consequences of his actions."

Israel, meanwhile, threatened to delay implementing any new Palestinian self-rule agreements unless Mr. Arafat cracks down on extremists.

The warning came from Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Despite the tension, the Israel-Palestinian negotiations on expanding self-rule resumed Monday at the Erez crossing point between Israel and Gaza.

block of Gush Katif when assailants opened fire on Israeli vehicles in two incidents Sunday.

"We do not see on the part of the Palestinian authority a serious effort to deal with those who oppose the agreement," Mr. Rabin told reporters.

Mr. Rabin said Israel would continue negotiating on expanding self-rule but no agreements would be implemented until the Palestinian National Authority could prove it would curb such attacks.

"We cannot accept that the Palestinian side does not fulfill its part in maintaining peace and quiet, or at least makes a serious effort to significantly reduce it, and we continue with the process as if nothing happened," Mr. Rabin said.

He said there had been 39 shootings, firebombs thrown or other violence since the Palestinian police took over self-rule in May, but that Sunday's victim was the first civilian killed. Four soldiers died in Gaza in previous incidents, he noted.

Right-wing leader Ariel Sharon called for cutting off talks with the Palestinians.

Top Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath said the Palestinian National Authority issued special orders to deal with the crisis.

(Continued on page 7)

End to
Syrian
jamming of
JTV seen
as positiveBy Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian officials on Monday welcomed the end of Syrian jamming of Jordan Television (JTV) transmission as an indication of the Damascus government's willingness to open up to all parties involved in the peace process.

Official sources said the end to the four-year jamming of JTV's transmission reflects Damascus' wish to start preparing the Syrian public opinion in favour of making peace with Israel.

The sources noted that Syrian TV carried in full the speeches of His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin in Washington on July 25, announcing the end to a 46-year state of belligerence between Jordan and Israel as well as the inauguration of the Aqaba-Eilat border crossing on Aug. 8.

(Continued on page 7)

Relocation of:
Qatar Embassy

Qatar Embassy announces the relocation of its embassy from Zahran Street to Hazza' Al Majali Street/near the previous Prime Ministry Building. (Now Court of Cassation and Supreme Court of Justice).

Following are the new telephone numbers of the embassy.

648346-9
Fax - 648374

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pepper (sweet)	240 / 180
Potato	400 / 300
Peaches	900 / 650
Tomato	110 / 60
String beans	600 / 500
Watermelon	60 / 40

Temperatures soar to 39°C

AMMAN (Petra) — Temperatures in Jordan soared to the high 30s Monday as a result of a seasonal low pressure centre over the Mediterranean region, according to acting Secretary General of the Meteorology Department Rafiq Shaker.

Mr. Shaker said the low air pressure caused hot and dry winds to blow on the eastern Mediterranean region.

According to Mr. Shaker, temperatures in Amman Monday recorded 39°C, and on Sunday 37°C and 33°C on Saturday.

He said he expected the heatwave to continue through the week, saying that afterwards temperatures will gradually drop to the seasonal average.

Mr. Shaker said August is considered the hottest month of the year when maximum average of temperatures reach 33.4°C.

He said the maximum temperature ever recorded in Amman was 42.8°C on Aug. 25, 1932.

Mr. Shaker said a review of temperatures in August during the past 70 years showed that on several occasions temperatures exceeded 37°C for a one- or two-day period.

Of the historic heatwaves that affected the Kingdom during August, according to Mr. Shaker, the 1932 scorcher brought six straight days of temperatures between 37-42.8°C.

He said that in August 1956, the Kingdom was affected by two heatwaves each lasting six days, the first starting on Aug. 5 with temperatures remaining over 40°C and the second starting on Aug. 25 with temperatures ranging between 36.7-42.2°C.

Mr. Shaker added that in 1965, the Kingdom suffered an eight-day heatwave with temperatures ranging between 37-42°C.

In 1985, he said two severe heatwaves affected the Kingdom, each lasting five days. He said the first started on Aug. 12 and temperatures registered between 39.4°C and 40.8°C, the second started on Aug. 21 and temperatures simmered between 37°C and 40.4°C.

Tour groups for '94 exempt from Petra fee hike

AMMAN (J.T.) — Tourism Minister Mohammad Adwan Monday decided to waive the Petra entrance fee increases for tourist group reservations through tour agencies prior to the announcement of the fee increment approved Saturday by the Council of Ministers, said Secretary General of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Ghassan Mufleh.

Mr. Mufleh said tourist groups and tour agencies committed to earlier contracts will be exempt from the increase, and would be required to pay the previous fee of JD 5 to enter the ancient city, instead of JD 20 which foreigners will have to pay as of Sept. 1, 1994. He said this exemption will last only until the end of December 1994.

Mr. Mufleh said the decision was taken to protect the interests of travel and tour agencies and to preserve their credibility abroad.

He said the chairman of the Jordanian Travel and Tour Agencies Society was informed of the new decision.

He called on all agencies which have earlier reservations for tourist groups to call at the ministry's Public Relations Department to confirm the reservations and to benefit from the exemption.

The ministry's secretary general reiterated that foreigners residing in Jordan and members of the diplomatic corps in the Kingdom are also exempt from paying the new entry fees to Petra, and that they will only have to pay JD 5 per person.

Mr. Mufleh said the purpose of increasing the entry fee to Petra was to protect the unique archaeological city and to preserve the local environment.

In addition, he said, this will give the ministry the chance to make available all facilities needed by tourists.

The Cabinet's decision to raise the entry fees into the city Saturday was taken upon recommendations by Mr. Adwan.

According to the decision, foreigners wishing to visit Petra over a period of two days will be charged JD 25 for a two-day pass, and JD 30 for a three-day pass.

The Cabinet's decision also limits the number of visitors to Petra to a maximum of 1,500 per day.

The increase in the entrance fee is expected to raise treasury revenue by JD 7 million to be used to improve tourism facilities.



A Petra area resident takes time out beside one of the Nabatean city's colossal monuments (File photo)

Kingdom continues marking holiday

ZARQA (Petra) — As part of the Kingdom's ongoing celebrations of the 42nd anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the Throne, Zarqa Governor Manshah Tarawneh Monday opened a new bus and service car terminal which cost Zarqa Municipality JD 360,000.

The terminal will be used for buses and cars commuting between Zarqa and its southern districts.

In addition, Mr. Tarawneh, who also heads the Zarqa Municipal Committee, opened the Plaza Tower Monument in the Army Circle area, established by a private company at a total cost of JD 60,000, and inaugurated other parks in the area.

The governor also inaugurated another monument built by the Zarqa Chamber of Commerce at the Jordan Petroleum Refinery crossroads. The JD 60,000 monument depicts the industrial and commercial importance of Zarqa in the Jordanian economy.

Mr. Tarawneh also opened the Prince Mohammad Gardens established on a 90-dunum plot. The gardens include a soccer field, stands for spectators, a children's playground and a centre for teaching children traffic rules. The JD 50,000 gardens also include the premises of the Zarqa municipality's sixth district.

He also re-opened the Zarqa Municipal Park after it was renovated.

Scientists reap 'extreme technical value' from laser conference

By Rhina Cortbawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The second international laser conference Monday ended with discussions and recommendations as well as "general feelings of content and satisfaction with the benefits reaped from the numerous papers presented on recent research, especially that some were of extreme technical value," said Riyadh Ahmad Bitar, physics professor at the University of Jordan.

The conference witnessed exchange of information between more than 50 scientists and technologists from Algeria, Iraq, Italy, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the U.S. and Jordan.

The conference also witnessed exchange of information between more than 50 scientists and technologists from Algeria, Iraq, Italy, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the U.S. and Jordan.

search on lasers, which are extensively used in many fields in the Arab World, "this conference served the objective of maintaining future interaction between scientists and technologists inside and outside Arabia. For that purpose, we recommended the establishment of a committee that will be responsible for the frequent issuing and distribution of mailing lists of scientists worldwide," said Dr. Bitar.

According to Daif Allah Nassour, a professor of physics at Tishreen University in Syria, the conference also directed researchers' interest to some useful and economically viable projects involving lasers in material-testing procedures, rather than the actual construction of laser equipment.

"Building low power lasers is not difficult. In fact, we built one in Syria for research purposes but it cost us three times its purchasing value," said Dr. Nassour.

The ability to make full use of laser applications was the objective of the conference, "as the main stumbling stone in laser construction lies in the lack of raw materials and sufficient funding," Dr. Nassour added.

Valuable papers presented included one on semiconductor-doped glasses by Vittorio Degiorgio, professor of physics at the University of Pavia, Italy.

"Since there is an existing glass factory in Jordan, I will dedicate part of my activities towards establishing the technology for glass coloration in the country. This is related to lasers because colour materials have to be tested by laser for their structure, optical characterisation and size of implanted microparticles," said Dr. Degiorgio.

"Dr. Degiorgio, in his well-appreciated efforts to encourage coordination, will consider hosting one of our masters graduates at his research laboratory in Italy, where he studied glass coloration," said Dr. Bitar.

Another economically feasible project discussed was that on the technical research that is currently being conducted to manufacture thin film solar cells on an industrial scale.

Examination of solar cells' optical properties of materials necessitates the use of laser facilities, according to Dr. Bitar.

He said, "relatively low labour costs, increased environmental awareness which favours the use of non-conventional renewable energy sources and the obvious advantage of enjoying sunshine for long periods during the year in Jordan make this project economically favourable, so much so that it is possible to compete with advanced countries on this market."

The paper on a portable laser-biographic interferometer, presented by Cesar Sciammarella, professor of experimental mechanics at the Illinois Institute of Technology, in the U.S., captured the interest of Jordanian researchers.

"The device is used to investigate materials detecting stresses and strains on material surfaces, which is tremendously useful in the design or purchase of many items," said Dr. Sciammarella.

"Also, the instrument can be used to check the fine welding of materials," added Dr. Bitar.

"Such research will be very useful to conduct, especially in cooperation with Dr. Sciammarella, who is one of the world's leading experts in experimental mechanics," said Sameh Issa, professor of experimental mechanics at the University of Jordan.

The main problems in conducting research, however, involve the necessity to secure financial support.

"Lack of time (due to work loads) and shortage of finance prevent researchers from implementing such projects. Decision-makers do not provide sufficient financial support to research because they allocate large sums of money in response to more pressing demands in other areas," said Dr. Bitar.

As well as further papers on laser technology, Monday's events dealt with recommendations by the participants.

Dr. Bitar and Dr. Issa were urged to follow up on the recommendations and prepare for the third international laser conference to be held in Iraq in two years.

Also, participants recommended forming an international committee consisting of six prominent scientists and technologists to help and direct preparations for the third conference.

Finally, participants were encouraged to support research institutions, especially those concerned with technical development, as this will significantly accelerate economic development.

"Economic competition will replace previous strife for the acquisition of destructive weapons. I believe the weapon era to be in the process of expiration," said Dr. Bitar.

Tawfiq Zayyad eulogised

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — To mark the recent passing of Palestinian poet Tawfiq Zayyad, Abdul Hameed Shoman's Foundation held a symposium Saturday night at which three literary men, Abdul Rahman Yaghi, Mu'nis Razzaz, and Izzeddin Maasreh eulogised the writer.



Tawfiq Zayyad

Attended by many of Mr. Zayyad's fans, the event was part of the implementation of the Shoman Foundation's policy "to revive the memory of the late, greatest Arab man of letters in a way that introduces the writers' thoughts, their works, and their other activities," said As'ad Abdul Rahman, general director of the foundation.

Tawfiq Zayyad was described as "the loving son of Palestine and the solid combatant who never bent to the enemy." The poet spent his life defending his Palestinian people, who were deprived of the simplest human rights.

The celebrated poet was described by Dr. Yaghi as being "the man of political creativity, and poetic art. Tawfiq Zayyad is a creative artist in politics, and a creative political man in art. He considered politics a delicious art, and considered art a delicious politics."

The poet never stopped writing about "the enemy who occupied his land," He introduced the enemy's behaviour, his tools, and his social structure, into his works.

Mu'nis Razzaz believed that Tawfiq Zayyad was distinguished by his attempt to balance creativity and combat. It was proved that creativity prevented embattling, and combating prevented creativity, he said.

"It was a tragedy for the poet to make a compromise between combating and creativity," said Mr. Razzaz.

Talking about himself before his death, Tawfiq Zayyad said in an interview, "Works are the most honest mirror of the human soul... I have to reveal a secret to you. Whenever I think that I am going to spend the whole of my life and myself in writing, I feel shy and scorn myself, because writing is not my deepest goal. In fact, I look at it as a witness on my crippled action."

No citizen or poet loved his city as Tawfiq Zayyad did. He had a distinguished role in killing fear and hesitation that had defeated man and woman since the dawn of history.

Mr. Maasreh lamented the poet by saying that Tawfiq Zayyad would have explained the concept of Israeli modernisation and the dangers of the Middle-Eastern culture. He would have said to modernised Bedouins, "you will never be blonde or European, even if you shed your Bedouin skin."

Tawfiq Zayyad belonged to the self-identity culture that protected the people's memory and helped them to demand the return of their country.

Tawfiq Zayyad's voice was first heard in 1966. He presented his first published collection of poems in 1969, and was available to the readers in 1970.

American think-tank seeks funding for regional economic development

By Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A prominent American foreign affairs think-tank is attempting to boost the results of the U.S.-sponsored peace talks between Arabs and Israelis by locating funding for economic development projects in the region, according to a member of the group.

"We will be cosponsors of an October economic summit in Casablanca. It aims to hook up international investors with Middle East governments on proposals for economic projects," Henry Stieglitz of the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations told the Jordan Times.

The international summit, described as unprecedented by diplomats, will bring leaders from throughout the Middle East together with private businessmen.

Mr. Stieglitz spoke as he and other members of a delegation from the think-tank were leaving for Cairo Sunday evening, where they would meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

They had just concluded a two-day visit to Jordan which was highlighted by meetings with His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

"We came on a dual mission — to hear from the leadership of the region's countries about their perceptions of what progress has been made in the peace talks, and to see what assistance is needed to move the involved parties further forward," Mr. Stieglitz said.

He added that before entering Jordan, the delegation had travelled to Israel and met with Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat as well as Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

According to Mr. Stieglitz, the Council on Foreign Relations includes among its members former U.S. presidents George Bush and Jimmy Carter, as well as ex-foreign ministers Henry Kissinger and Cyrus Vance.

Although he stressed that the council is a "private, non-partisan group," Mr. Stieglitz emphasised that the group's mission was a vitally important one on the political level.

"We are trying to play a positive role in Middle East development both officially and unofficially," and the views and opinions which the delegation hears from regional leaders on the current visit "will be taken back to the U.S. for consideration in both official and private circles," he said.

Mr. Stieglitz added that potential options for bilateral Jordanian-Israeli development projects in the Jordan Rift Valley had been one major focus of the council's discussions with Jordanian leaders.

In addition to King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan, Mr. Stieglitz said that the council delegation had also met with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and "an extensive number" of other high-level Jordanian officials.

This visit has been extremely useful, and very insightful, he said. He explained that the council, which publishes a quarterly magazine on foreign affairs, has previously made extensive visits to "every country in the Middle East, in order to develop an extensive network of relationships."

Mr. Stieglitz explained that the council sees its guiding mission as one of giving consultation and advice to leaders of foreign countries and "lending a creative hand in suggesting new strategies and policies."

In answering questions posed by attendants, Dr. Terry said, "a couple of years ago, some published research papers showed that more complications were faced in disposable extended wear of lenses than in conventional extended wear. But I totally disagree: complications result primarily from extended wear."

"And I personally would not advise a new patient to start with extended wear."

Hence daily wear, though requiring greater care, time and effort, is generally more favourable than extended wear.

"I myself am a part-time contact lens wearer," Dr. Terry concluded.

Expert opens eyes to problems of contact lens abuse

By Rhina Cortbawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Over the years, the contact lens industry has witnessed modifications and diversity in marketed products.

The 1980s marked the preference to use contact lenses that provide increased oxygen transmission, and the inclination to use disposable lenses for simple care is observed in the 1990s.

"All lenses are disposable; it just depends on when you decide to dispose of them," said Robert Terry, one of the world's leading ophthalmologists.

On the occasion of launching disposable contact lenses under the trade-name ACUVUE, in Jordan, John

son & Johnson, in cooperation with members of the Jordanian Ophthalmological Society, invited Dr. Terry to give a lecture on "the problems caused by contact lens abuse" at the Forte Grand Hotel, on Sunday.

Dr. Terry, who works in the research department at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London, explained the complications suffered from extended wear of contact lenses over a long period of time, providing guidelines to long-term survival without adverse effects on the eyes during lens wear.

"Extended wear signifies keeping the lenses on continuously for longer than six days, as opposed to daily wear, in which lenses are taken off before sleep," said Dr. Terry.

Greater risk of complications originate from extended wear since contamination of the lenses results as the amounts of bacteria deposited on them increase significantly during sleep.

Also, inadequate oxygen supply does not help in maintaining the cornea, which swells up during lens wear at night, explained Dr. Terry.

Thus bacterial attachment to the lenses affects the cornea and results in adhesion of bacteria to epithelial tissues of the eye, creating problems.

According to Dr. Terry, warning signs of complications include burning sensations, increased sensitivity to light, redness and watering of the eyes.

"Borderline contact lens candidates must cure their

problems at an early stage to prevent further risk," said Dr. Terry.

Other problems associated with lens wear involve the accumulations of deposits on the lenses. "This, however, can be cured by disposability because these accumulations never go, and so the lens should," said Dr. Terry.

Daily cleansing, especially using mechanical rubbing and rinsing, removes the majority of microorganisms, and lenses solutions avoid bacterial contamination that leads to eye infection.

"But regular replacement of lenses ensures increased safety and success of contact lens wear," said Dr. Terry.

Another point to consider is that contact lens wearers most often do not comply with the regimen dictated by

their opticians, and so become lax about their daily lens care obligations.

"Therefore, ophthalmic opticians must regularly interrogate patients about their routine lens care, reach them well, keep them well-informed and detect any emerging problems," said Dr. Terry.

In response, "patients should follow their opticians' instructions, undergo regular examinations of their eyes and act as soon as complications are felt," Dr. Terry said.

Early detection of problems is the key to continued lens wear. Examination of the eyes should include eversion of the upper eyelids looking for redness, transparency, roughness, increased number of surfacing

WHAT'S GOING ON

- FUHEIS FIFTH FESTIVAL**
- ★ Concert by vocalist Lutfi Bushnaq of Tunisia at the main theatre, off the Greek Orthodox convent at 21:00.
 - ★ Poetry recital by Lebanese poets Shawqi Bzai', Abdul Karim Shams Al Din, Lami' Al Horri, and Talal Hakdar at the festival site at 19:00.
 - ★ Exhibition of Jordanian scripts, documents, and books.
 - ★ Abstract art paintings exhibition by Salwa Amman, Darya Zaidia, Norma Hattar, and Elias Tu'meh.
 - ★ Exhibition on the city of Salt.
 - ★ Caricature drawings exhibition by Imad Hajja, Kifah Mahmoud, and Khalidoun Gharabeh.
 - ★ Exhibition of handicrafts.
 - ★ Comprehensive agricultural exhibition (held for the first time with the participation of the private and public sectors).
- FOLKLORIC DANCE**
- ★ Folkloric dance by Al Hannounah band at the Royal Cultural Centre at 20:00.
- NEWS HOUR**
- ★ ABC News Highlights and McNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Center at 17:00.
- LECTURE**
- ★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "The Worries of the Arab Family in the World of Cultural Changes" by Dr. Muzah Gabbash at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 18:30.
- EXHIBITIONS**
- ★ Exhibition of new paintings by Diana Shamouni at The Gallery, Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel (8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.).
 - ★ Exhibition of paintings by Omar Hamdan Shaban at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luveldah. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).
 - ★ Exhibition of caricature drawings by cartoonist Hussein Al Farra at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).
 - ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Princess Wijdan Ali at the Balqa Art Gallery in Fuheis (10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 720677).

Indian premier tells Pakistan to return the rest of Kashmir

NEW DELHI (R) — India, escalating a war of words with neighbouring Pakistan, said Monday that Islamabad must turn over its share of the disputed Kashmir region to New Delhi.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao staked claim to the entire strife-torn northern region, part of which is under Pakistani rule, in a nationally televised speech marking India's 47th independence anniversary.

"The one unfinished task is that Pakistan vacate its occupation of those areas of Kashmir which are under its control and should form part of India," said Mr. Rao, speaking in Hindi from New Delhi's medieval Red Fort.

"With you, without you, in spite of you Kashmir will remain an integral part of India," he said.

Kashmir has been at the centre of a protracted dispute between mostly Hindu India and Islamic Pakistan which has sparked three wars in 47 years. New Delhi claims Pakistan occupied a portion of the valley by force in 1947.

In the last four years an estimated 17,000 people have been killed in a Muslim uprising against Indian rule.

India accuses Pakistan of secretly arming Muslim militants who are seeking an independent Kashmir or to unite India's only Muslim-majority state with Pakistan.

In Srinagar, the summer

capital of India's Jammu and Kashmir state, one person was killed and another was injured Monday when Muslim militants fired two rockets at a parade security forces, police said.

In a nearby town a man sitting on a window sill of his house was killed by a stray bullet during an exchange of gunfire between militants and security forces, police said.

On Sunday Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto described the Kashmir dispute as an "unfinished agenda" from the sub-continent's partition and said Islamabad would always support Kashmiris fighting Indian rule.

Mr. Rao claimed Ms. Bhutto's speech proved Islamabad was aiding Muslim militants and said the only unfinished task was for Pakistan to pull out of Kashmir. "We are firm in our position that Kashmir will be part of India and we will stick to it," the Indian prime minister said.

Regional tensions have raised concerns in part because India has tested an atom bomb and Pakistan is believed to have a nuclear bomb or be close to building one.

Mr. Rao said he was not threatening Pakistan but seeking bilateral talks to resolve the dispute. Islamabad wants a U.N.-sponsored

plebiscite to determine the region's fate.

"I am not threatening but taking into view stability in South Asia," he said. "We want peace and sovereignty."

Mr. Rao said India would pursue its fight against armed militants in Kashmir until Pakistan stopped meddling in the region. "We want to tell Pakistan that we will continue to take steps to stop terrorist activities in Kashmir," he said.

The government is moving towards conducting elections in Kashmir by defining electoral areas but did not want to set a date for it, Mr. Rao said.

Indian government officials have promised elections in Jammu and Kashmir but it was believed to be the first time the prime minister pledged a poll.

Mr. Rao, wooing Muslims ahead of state elections, said Monday he had doubled the strength of an anti-riot police force and approved a finance corporation for India's minorities.

Mr. Rao, delivering an Independence Day speech on nationwide television, said 10 Rapid Action Force (RAF) battalions comprised of majority Hindus and minority Muslims had been formed — twice as many as the government had promised last year.

The special RAF police force is seen by Muslims as a

protection against Hindu militants. India's ordinary police forces are usually dominated by the Hindu majority. The force was originally formed following 1992 ethnic riots sparked by a dispute over a shrine in the northern town of Ayodhya. Some 2,500 people, mostly Muslims, were killed in the violence.

Analysts say Mr. Rao's ruling Congress Party is keen to win back Muslim supporters, alienated by its perceived indifference towards Hindu militants, ahead of elections in 10 of the nation's 26 states later this year and in early 1995.

Lacing his Hindi-language speech with expressions from the Muslim minority's Urdu tongue, Mr. Rao said the government had approved a fund to improve business opportunities for Muslims and other minorities.

The fund, called the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation (NMFDC), will be given start-up capital of five billion rupees (\$165 million).

India's main religious groups are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians living under a constitution that treats all religions as equal. But the 120 million-strong Muslim community is the main minority whose status affects social peace and election results.



Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, surrounded by security guards, descends the steps of the 17th century Red Fort after giving a speech to mark India's Independence Day (AFP photo)

Battered lira stabilises after show of Berlusconi coalition unity

ROME (R) — The battered Italian lira held steady in edgy trading Monday after Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's show of coalition unity over the weekend, which was aimed at calming nervous financial markets.

But in a sign that media tycoon Berlusconi's honeymoon with the electorate may be over, a poll showed 55.1 per cent of Italians were dissatisfied with his government's performance so far.

The embattled Berlusconi, who made up with Northern League leader Umberto Bossi — his most troublesome coalition partner — at the weekend, repeated that there

was no alternative to his conservative administration.

The Italian currency, which fell to record lows Friday due to worries about the domestic political outlook was little changed in trading in London, but dealers and financial analysts said they remained wary about the future.

"The fact that they appear to have patched up their differences is fine," said Clayton Perry, a London-based analyst for Credit Suisse First Boston, a large merchant bank.

"But the problems run deeper than can be sold in a

single meeting and the markets are remaining on edge." Italian markets were closed Monday for a one-day public holiday, but the lira changed hands in London at 1,023.50/4.50 to the German mark, in line with its close late Friday.

Worries at the constant squabbling within Mr. Berlusconi's coalition pushed the battered Italian currency to a record low of 1,030 per mark shortly after midday Friday.

In a move some commentators dubbed "spaghetti diplomacy", Mr. Bossi and Mr. Berlusconi ironed out their differences in a meeting in the small hours of Saturday

Clinton loses out to gun lobby

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Americans' fabled fondness for guns and the nation's number one lobby group, the National Rifle Association (NRA), came together last week to deal a crushing blow to President Bill Clinton.

Despite several setbacks in past months, the NRA showed that its influence on American politics remained intact when it managed to convince key members of the House of Representatives to reject Mr. Clinton's watershed crime bill.

Mr. Clinton denounced the outcome of the vote as a victory of "special interests" over ordinary Americans who in public opinion polls have repeatedly identified skyrocketing crime as their most pressing concern.

He charged that the NRA had resorted to a "procedural trick" to block passage of the bill that would ban on 19 types of assault weapons and would have put 100,000 more police on the streets.

Negotiations to save the crime-fighting package are expected to be difficult but the outcome of the talks

could prove crucial for Democratic candidates ahead of November's legislative elections.

Mr. Clinton shot back following the defeat and said Saturday that the ban on assault weapons was not negotiable.

"Let me be clear about this: The crime bill must ban the assault weapons that have no place on our streets," Mr. Clinton said.

One out of every four Democrats in the House voted against the crime package in a move viewed by White House aides as a betrayal to the president.

Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell said Sunday in a televised interview that Congress was "on this issue, controlled by the National Rifle Association."

Influence-peddling by the gun lobby was a "crucial factor" in the outcome of the vote, Sen. Mitchell said.

According to analysts from the Centre for Responsive Politics, the NRA spent close to \$500,000 over the past 19 months to woo the 225 Con-

gressmen who voted against the bill and only \$65,000 was showered upon the 210 Representatives who supported the package.

Founded in 1871 in the heyday of the Wild West, the NRA has come under mounting pressure to abandon its opposition to gun control as U.S. crime rates have soared.

The NRA lost a major battle last year when Congress approved measures to tighten control on gun-licensing in a bill that took seven years to win approval.

The lobby group, which boasts a membership of 3.5 million including former President George Bush, draws much of its legitimacy in its battle against gun control from the U.S. Constitution which recognises the right to keep and bear arms.

"A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed," reads the Second Amendment, which comes after the key provision on rights and liberties.

Balladur hails liberators at Provence ceremonies

SAINT-RAPHAEL, France (AFP) — French Premier Edouard Balladur paid tribute Monday to allied troops who helped drive Nazi forces from southern France in 1944, on the second day of events marking the liberation operation.

Mr. Balladur honoured specifically British and U.S. troops at a ceremony on a beachhead near the Riviera resort of Saint Raphael, while in another ceremony he honoured the French force which helped liberate their own country.

"French people will never forget these soldiers of courage and liberty," he said, commemorating the "numerous (servicemen) who fell for freedom," in the operation, he said at the Dramont beachhead near here.

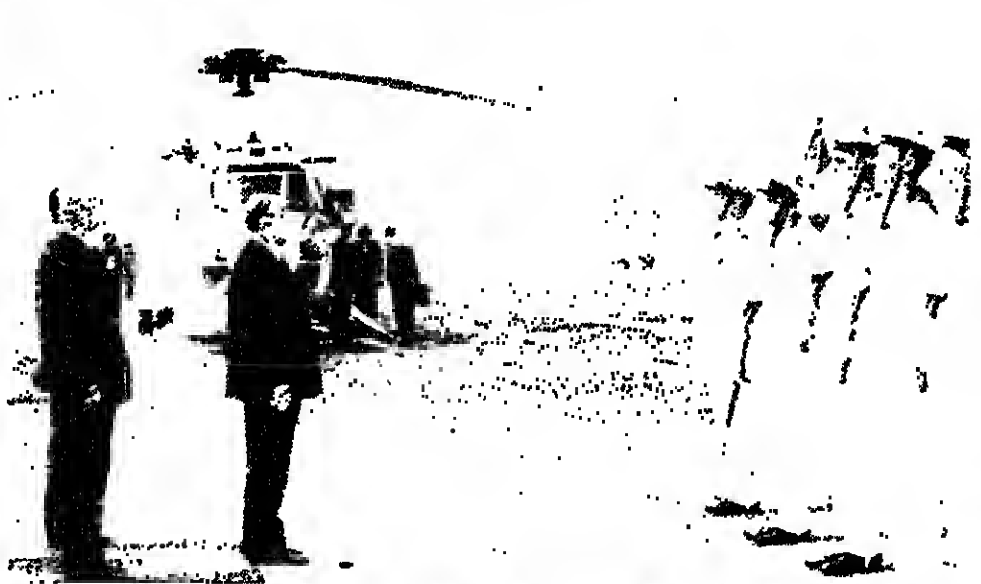
Speaking in the presence of dignitaries including Britain's Prince Andrew and U.S. Navy Secretary John Dalton, Mr. Balladur said the British and U.S. troops "faced the greatest resistance from the Germans."

Troops from the 36th U.S. Infantry Division, the so-called "Camel Force," landed on the Dramont beach on the night of Aug. 15, 1944, supported by allied warships massed off the Provence coast in Operation Dragoon.

Dragoon, in which some 400,000 allied troops took part, was the allied mission to open a second front in France following the Normandy D-Day landings.

A granite monument on the beachhead commemorates how U.S. forces, along with their allies "began the drive which led across France, Germany and Austria, ending with the complete destruction of the German army and the Nazi regime."

Speaking to contingents



French President Francois Mitterrand (centre) and Prime Minister Edouard Balladur (left) review an honour guard on board the aircraft carrier Foch as they arrive for a naval review marking the 50th anniversary of allied landing in Provence, southern France (AFP photo)

from African and U.S. battalions as well as the Welsh Guards, saying that "strong alliance are the foundation of the most secure victories."

"The last half a century has repeatedly confirmed: Security, stability, in one word peace, are a common responsibility...The tumultuous events which have happened since the liberation have made international solidarity more necessary than ever."

The Dramont ceremony ended with a three-nation fly past.

In a ceremony shortly afterwards at nearby Cavalaire, just west of Saint Tropez, Mr. Balladur meanwhile turned his attention to France's own troops who took part in Dragoon.

Cavalaire was the site of the first landing by French forces, including servicemen from France's former African colonies, in the allied operation. Mr. Balladur called the force "an army of heroes."

After his address at the war monument in the town, Mr. Balladur bestowed honours on eight veterans of the landings, including two of Algerian birth and one from the Congo.

The Cavalaire ceremony was also attended by French Defence Minister Francois Leotard, Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, who was to have been present, was recalled to Paris due to the arrest of the international terrorist Carlos.

Monday's ceremonies came after celebrations began Sunday with a huge multinational naval review off the Provence coast, led by President Francois Mitterrand and 14 African heads of state.

Swimming as a kid in Lake Michigan brought Angelos Chatas to France twice in 1944: as the first American on Utah Beach in D-Day, and blowing up underwater obstacles on the Riviera 10

weeks later.

On Sunday, the 73-year-old Dallas, Texas, resident was in France again, honoured as a hero by the French government celebrating 50 years since the liberation from German occupation.

Defence Minister Francois Leotard pinned France's second-highest honour, the Order of National Merit, next to the bronze star on Mr. Chatas' blazer Sunday during commemorative ceremonies in southern France.

Belated recognition, perhaps, but somehow that much more symbolic this year as many events overlooked in the heat of World War II's battles get a new look thanks to a wave of anniversaries.

"I'm overwhelmed and humbled by it," Mr. Chatas said. "I accept it really as a representative of all my comrades, many of whom are buried here."

Mexican government candidate pledges clean election

MEXICO CITY (Agencies) — Mexico's ruling party candidate Ernesto Zedillo pledged a clean election and prosperity at his final campaign rally Sunday packed with hundreds of thousands of party-supplied supporters.

Buses supplied by the International Revolutionary Party (PRI) that has ruled Mexico since 1929 began ferrying supporters to Mexico City's main square hours before the rally was to begin.

"They told us to support Zedillo and here we are," said Javier Fernandez, a worker who declined to say which group he was from. "The leaders are not. I'm here because of pressure."

A sidewalk vendor concurred: "Yesterday, they gave me a cap and a T-shirt and told me that if I did not go to the main square I wouldn't have a spot for three weeks. Here I am."

Organisers from the huge pro-government Mexican Workers Confederation and other, smaller unions handed out T-shirts, caps, signs and



An estimated 200,000 people fill the central square in Mexico City for a campaign speech by Institutional Revolutionary Party candidate

contrasting voters for rallies — told the crowd he was confident he would win cleanly on Aug. 21 and urged supporters to "vote for the well-being of your families."

"We do not want a country mired in the past," he said in his 35-minute address. Others PRI candidates pack-

ed the stage but did not speak.

Mr. Zedillo, who is running in his first campaign, was selected by the PRI to replace the more charismatic Luis Donaldo Colosio after his slaying on March 23 following a rally in Tijuana, Mexico.

Murayama says Japan regrets war, but ministers send different signals

TOKYO (AFP) — Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama on Monday declared Japan's regret over sufferings it inflicted upon Asians during World War II as the country marked the 49th anniversary of its surrender, but members of his cabinet sent contradictory signals.

"I would like to deeply consider those people's pain and sorrow, and express my condolences with deep reflection," he said at a ceremony attended by 8,000 people including Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, along with war survivors and families of war dead.

"Always humbly, we must build relations based on trust with countries concerned and also make our utmost efforts to act on various issues after the war," he said.

Mr. Murayama, the first socialist to head the nation in 47 years, repeated the word "reflection" during his speech, which was taken to indicate his resolve to settle issues left over from the war, such as compensation for war victims.

The ceremony came one day after the resignation of a minister in the ruling coalition over remarks defending

Japan's war record, tarnishing the dovish image of the cabinet and triggering an outcry from China and South Korea.

Shin Sakurai of the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was replaced as Environment Agency director-general Sunday after saying that Japan had not intended to wage "a war of aggression."

The war issue however did not quiet down with Mr. Sakurai's resignation.

As the prime minister expressed condolences at Tokyo's Budokan Stadium, one third of his 21-member cabinet paid controversial visits to the nearby Yasukuni Shrine where military war dead, including war criminals, are commemorated.

Seven ministers, mainly from the LDP, went to the shrine despite Mr. Murayama's earlier warning that such visits could ruffle the sentiments of people in Japan's neighbouring countries.

Among the seven were such key ministers as International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, Justice Minister Isao Maeda and Defence Agency

Director-General Tokuchiro Tamazawa.

While six of 13 ministers from the LDP paid tribute at the shrine, none of the six ministers from Mr. Murayama's Social Democratic Party (SDP) did — another sign of policy differences in the coalition between the former rival parties.

Mr. Murayama, while expressing his view that such visits would not be desirable, left the matter to the discretion of each minister.

The heads of the three parties in the coalition — Mr. Murayama himself, Foreign Minister Yohei Kono of the LDP, and Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura of the smaller New Party Sakigake — all stayed away from the shrine.

Sohei Miyashita, an LDP member who replaced Mr. Sakurai Sunday, has told reporters that he "basically support Murayama's view about the war" that Japan's aggression caused sufferings of people in other countries.

"A war should never be repeated. It is the biggest responsibility of politicians to keep peace in Japan," Mr. Miyashita said.

Edinburgh Festival opens on a high note

EDINBURGH (R) — The triumphant return of a local boy turned musical maestro has opened the programme of Edinburgh's 48-year-old international festival. Donald Rannicles conducted Mahler's symphony Of 1,000 in Edinburgh's Usher Hall some 30 years after making his musical debut there as an 11-year-old singer in the same piece. Prolonged applause from a delighted audience at the festival's opening concert brought the musical director of San Francisco Opera back for curtain call after curtain call. "I've never heard anything like it," one regular festival-goer said. The festival could muster only around half the 1,000 performers specified by the Viennese composer and music critics were more muted in their praise, complaining of problems with the sitting of soloists among the orchestra and chorus. But it marked a triumphant return for Edinburgh-born Rannicles, virtually unknown in Scotland after working mostly in Austria and Germany before moving to the United States. He now spends six months with San Francisco Opera and works in Bayreuth, other German cities and Vienna the rest of the year. This year's festival, which ends on Sept. 3, boasts and ambitious programme centred on Beethoven, opera, dance and drama. More than 70 per cent of seats have been sold in advance.

5 indicted in movie award scandal

MANILA (AP) — The second runnerup in last year's Miss World pageant and four others were indicted Monday on fraud charges, accused of falsifying winners in June's Manila Film Festival. One of the five, talent agent Lolit Solis, was also indicted in the Manila regional trial court for obstruction of justice in the June 22 incident, in which the wrong winners for Best Actor and Best Actress were announced. Fraud carries a prison sentence of 12 to 20 years. Obstruction of justice is punishable by up to six years imprisonment. Charges against Gaby Concepcion, who was wrongly named Best Actress, were dropped. Officials said Actress Nanette Medved was indicted but the charges would be dropped so she could testify against the others. She admitted that she knowingly announced Concepcion as the bogus winner but did so under pressure from Solis. Prosecutor Porfirio Macaraeg said fraud indictments were also returned against Rufa Gutierrez, the 1993 second runnerup in the Miss World pageant; her brother Rocky Gutierrez; and Viveka Babajee, who represented the Indian Ocean nation of Mauritius in last May's Miss Universe pageant here. Miss Gutierrez was wrongly announced as Best Actress in the festival awards ceremony and along with Medved announced the Best Actor.

"Very true," he said, "out of our own resources and we're going to lose it. Atomic Energy spoke to Kanov (tele) The minister officially said thefts of German and the third grade nuclear materials from Soviet bloc."

For rent, cheap, 13 Venetian islands

VENICE (AP) — For rent, cheap, 13 Venetian islands. After years of being abandoned or used at most as illegal garbage dumps, some of the lagoon city's tiny islands will be available for rental starting in September. "It's absurd and disgraceful that these islands remain unused, at the mercy of vandals," the Rome newspaper La Repubblica quoted Carmelo Ianni, an official in Venice's property office, as saying. Other Italian newspapers Sunday carried similar stories about the decision to rent the islands. The rent will be cheap, but there is a catch — Renters must restore abandoned structures or otherwise fix up the islands. "We can't give them away free, the law won't let us," Mr. Ianni was quoted as saying. "We must ask for, maybe, a lira (less than a U.S. cent), a symbolic price" depending on shape of the island and plans. In all, there are 34 islands in the lagoon, only a few of them inhabited, such as lace-making Burano and glass-making Murano, two popular tourist stops. One island has a cemetery, a couple host convents. Until two years ago, another was home to a psychiatric hospital, and still another, used by the military for target practice, will soon become a park. The wild rush on the islands is also paradise for hunters of birds and other prey.

Hungary trying

HAVANA — Hungary's oil tanker, the Mariel Suarez, to the United States, stopped by Cuba and said it was being used to transport oil to the Soviet Union.

The incident involving the tanker was reported by the Cuban press. The minister of several elements of the Soviet Union, including the Mariel Suarez, was reported to be in the vessel going to the Soviet Union.

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World News

South Korean president spells out new unification formula

SEOUL (AFP) — Saying the world's last cold war barrier is crumbling, South Korean President Kim Young Sam Monday unveiled a new formula for gradual reunification with the Communist North — shifting the emphasis from politics to economics.

Mr. Kim, whose planned historic summit with Kim Il-Sung of the North last month was aborted by the Northern leader's death on July 8, said he was presenting the new blueprint because "the Korean people cannot live divided for ever."

Mr. Kim, whose planned historic summit with Kim Il-Sung of the North last month was aborted by the Northern leader's death on July 8, said he was presenting the new blueprint because "the Korean people cannot live divided for ever."

Justifying gradual, phased — rather than rapid — moves towards unity, Mr. Kim pointed to the bloody civil war in Yemen, which he blamed on a superficial political union without a solid preparatory process.

"It will not be possible to unify the South and the North overnight because the two parts of Korea have been locked into mutual hostility and distrust," he warned.

The speech, delivered nationwide on the anniversary of the end of Japanese colonial rule over the Korean peninsula, came after a two-day police crackdown on student radicals

trying to stage North Korean-initiated pan-national rallies in the streets of Seoul to urge speedy reunification.

Mr. Kim's government had outlawed the rally. It also came after Unification Minister Lee Hong-Koo said steps over the weekend in Geneva between Washington and Pyongyang towards a solution to the North Korean nuclear standoff could be an impetus to new North-South talks.

Talks between the North and the South, and plans for the first ever summit between the two were abruptly broken off after Kim Il-Sung's death, as were the Washington-Pyongyang nuclear talks.

But while the United States and North Korea resumed their talks last week, and moved quickly towards the statement and an agreement to meet again on Sept. 23, South and North Korea fell back into cold war rhetoric and the summit remains indefinitely postponed.

"The cold war is finally leaving the Korean peninsula... the competition between the South and the North over which can create a better society has already been decided," Mr. Kim said in his speech.

"The North Korean leadership must, as a matter of course, abandon their strategy of commencing the South... they must also undertake bold reforms including improvement of the human rights situation."

North Korea Monday accused South Korea of deepening "national division" and rebuffed Seoul's new unification formula that

shifted the emphasis from politics to economics, southern monitors said.

Pyongyang, through its state media, swiftly denounced the new blueprint unveiled Monday by President Kim Young Sam as a rehash of previous formulas proposed by Mr. Kim's predecessors, said Seoul's official Naewoo Press.

The vitriolic North Korean reaction came during a rally in Pyongyang to mark the liberation of the peninsula from Japanese colonial rule from 1910 to 1945, Naewoo said.

It was not immediately known how North Korea came to have an advance copy of the Kim speech.

Pyongyang also charged that by repeating the "heavy-handed policies of past dictatorships" Mr. Kim's administration had shown it had no intention of seeking inter-Korean dialogue.

President Kim Young Sam said South Korea was ready to help North Korea with sensitive nuclear power generation, saying the project could become the first joint venture of the new "Korean community."

"The Korean people cannot live divided forever. We must pool all our national determination and energies," he said.

"If and when the North guarantees the transparency of its nuclear activities, we are ready to support their development of the peaceful use of nuclear energy, including light-water nuclear reactor construction, by providing them with the necessary capital and technology," Mr. Kim said.

He said the programme could become "the first joint project for national development," leading to the establishment of a "single community of the Korean people."

Mr. Kim's statement came amid South Korean manoeuvres to have its own interests reflected in the results of U.S.-North talks aimed at solving disputes over the North's suspected nuclear weapons programme.

Riots in Seoul

Meanwhile police helicopters Monday dropped teargas over thousands of radical students trying to stage a North Korean-inspired rally in a university where a night of pitched battles left more than 100 injured.

Outside the Seoul National University campus, thousands of riot police maintained a tight blockade, firing volleys of teargas shells across the walls, witnesses said.

The massive teargas attack sent more than 10,000 students fleeing into school buildings and nearby hills and left only a few hundred to hold a curtailed ceremony for the "pan-national" rally, they said.

"Three police helicopters swooped overhead, spraying teargas, and students ran away through clouds of teargas," said an AFP photographer at the scene.

The police tightly sealed off the campus but took no further action following a night of vicious hand-to-hand fighting with thousands of students who responded with rocks, steep pipes and clubs.



Students beat a riot policeman during a North Korean-initiated rally in Seoul (AFP photo)

U.N. hopes accord will stop sniping in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — An accord to end sniping in Sarajevo took effect Monday and U.N. peacekeeping officials hoped it would help defuse tensions between warring factions in the Bosnian capital.

The anti-sniping agreement signed on Sunday went into effect at 1100 GMT and followed a marked increase in sniper fire that had claimed growing number of civilian lives and forced the virtual closure of the city's tram system.

The Bosnian Serbs and the Muslim-led Bosnian government army also agreed verbally to end shooting attacks around Sarajevo Airport which have shut down the U.N. humanitarian airlift to the city.

As part of the anti-sniping accord, Serb and Muslim officials pledged to form joint patrols with the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to flush out snipers disobeying orders and prosecute them as criminals.

Gunfire halted the airlift Thursday only two days after it resumed following an 18-day break caused by a spate of shooting incidents. The city already faces a food shortage that the United Nations says could become critical without regular deliveries.

A spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said the relief airlift may resume Tuesday if UNPROFOR military flights were able to land without coming under fire.

"We hope this operation will resume tomorrow. There are meetings of the countries involved today. It's likely that with the continued safe operation of the UNPROFOR flights, UNHCR humanitarian operations will also resume," he said.

Bosnian Serbs had stepped up sniping in the capital in the past month amid international pressure to accept the latest peace plan, which they have refused to endorse.

A Bosnian Serb military officer said Monday the peace plan required Serbs to give up too much territory and would jeopardise Serb interests.

"The people and the army that are winning cannot lose everything they have fought for on the ground at the negotiating table," Lieutenant-Colonel Milan Gvero, assistant to the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) commander, told local Serb Television in Bosnia.

The headline BSA commander, General Ratko Mladic, has yet to take public

stand in the power struggle between Bosnian Serb leaders and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, who has cut off all ties to the rebel Serbs to force them to accept the peace plan.

Mr. Milosevic, who faces a threat of tougher economic sanctions if the plan is rejected, has imposed a blockade on the Bosnian Serbs to persuade them to reverse their position.

The United Nations reported Monday mainly sporadic clashes on Bosnia's battlefronts and said Bosnian Serbs had obstructed U.N. aid convoys in eastern Bosnia.

A UNHCR aid convoy headed to Gorazde had to turn back Sunday after Bosnian Serb forces insisted that two of nine trucks unload at the Serb-held town of Visegrad instead, Mr. Kessler said.

"This is of course totally against the clearance we had received from the Pale (Bosnian Serb) authorities. Visegrad is already served and we are getting what they require. So this kind of demand is unacceptable and disheartening," he said.

U.N. officers said a stalled peace plan and growing pressure to lift the arms

embargo against Muslim-led forces meant many countries were considering a withdrawal of their United Nations peacekeepers in Bosnia.

French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur warned Sunday that Paris would pull its peacekeeping troops out of Bosnia if the arms embargo was lifted to allow arms to flow freely to the mostly Muslim Bosnian army.

France's Defence Minister Francois Leotard later said he had told the United States other European Union countries would also withdraw their forces.

France, with more than 5,000 soldiers, has the largest peacekeeping contingent in the former Yugoslavia and together EU countries form the bulk of the U.N. force.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has told Congress he intends to ask the United Nations to lift the embargo by the end of October if Bosnia's Serbs have not agreed to an international peace plan.

Nations contributing troops for U.N. duty believe lifting the arms embargo to help Bosnia's less-well-armed Muslim forces fight the Serbs would remove their impartiality in the conflict and could make their forces the target of retributive attacks.

Russia disowns plutonium seized in Germany

MOSCOW (R) — Russian officials said Monday there was no evidence that weapons-grade plutonium 239 seized by German police last week had come from a Russian nuclear plant but offered to help Bonn investigate where it had originated.

Bavarian police at Munich Airport seized between 100 and 300 grams (3.5 to 10.5 ounces) of the highly-enriched plutonium on-board a German Lufthansa airliner which had arrived from Moscow. Three men were arrested.

"Very recently we carried out an inventory of all sources linked to plutonium and we registered no thefts or losses of plutonium 239," Atomic Energy Ministry spokeswoman Georgy Kurov told reporters.

"The ministry can now officially say we have had no thefts of plutonium 239," German officials said it was the third seizure of weapons-grade nuclear material in four months from the former Soviet bloc. Experts fear it

could make its way into the hands of developing countries who want to make nuclear devices.

Sergei Vasilyev, head of press relations at Russia's Federal Counter-Espionage Service, said he agreed with Mr. Kurov.

"There is no evidence this is from Russia. Let them prove it," he said by telephone.

Germany's top police agency seized an illegal shipment of six grams (0.2 ounces) of plutonium 239 in Maz and insisted it had come from Russia's nuclear industry. But Moscow said then it had no proof to back up the German finding.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Sunday he would seek help from Moscow to stop nuclear smuggling.

"The announcement by Chancellor Kohl is linked with (their) concerns, but has no factual statements to the effect that (the plutonium) is Russian," said Mr. Kurov.

"The statements being made in the German press

and television are of course alarming but we are not in the slightest bit worried," he said.

"We have had no contact from German specialists, government or firms, so we have nothing to react to... we are ready to analyse the samples in Germany to find out where the plutonium comes from."

The weekly magazine Der Spiegel, which broke the news, suggested the source was "underpaid scientists in advanced laboratories" in the former Soviet Union.

But Mr. Kurov dismissed the claim as speculation, saying the German press had made similar allegations about previous seizures of radioactive material.

"First they talked about 500 grammes, then about 250 grammes, then seven grammes of plutonium. They said it was from Chelyabinsk, Tomsk or Krasnoyarsk, then the papers said it came from Bulgaria," he said.

"The German side has to produce some material so we

can discuss it."

Bonn is deeply worried about the growing evidence that Germany is becoming the main smuggling route for nuclear material from the former Soviet Union.

Bernd Schmidbauer, Mr. Kohl's aide in charge of intelligence affairs, plans to travel to Moscow soon to discuss the issue. He recently said both international crime gangs and Russian government officials were involved.

Last month U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation head Louis Freeh signed a deal with Moscow to fight international organised crime and warned weapons-grade nuclear materials could find their way into criminal hands.

Mr. Kurov said it was shameful to suggest Deputy Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Sidorenko, on the same Lufthansa flight as the plutonium, was in any way linked to the affair.

"Our minister is a deeply respected academic... he simply couldn't be involved in such a business."

Hundreds board tanker, trying to leave Cuba

HAVANA (R) — Several hundred Cubans boarded an oil tanker in the port of Mariel Sunday in a bid to go to the United States but were stopped by authorities, officials said Monday.

Authorities were not letting the vessel, the Maltese-flagged Jussara, leave the port west of Havana and special measures had been taken to ensure it did not move, an Interior Ministry statement said.

The incident was the latest involving Cubans trying to leave the Communist-ruled Caribbean island.

The ministry said a group of several hundred "anti-social elements" from various parts of Havana province gathered Sunday afternoon in Mariel where the oil tanker was docked.

"Apparently in connivance with the oil tanker's Greek captain who carries out fuel transfers in Cuba, they got on the vessel with the aim of going to the United States," the statement said.

It said that civilian law enforcement brigades mobilised rapidly but it was too late to prevent the people from boarding the vessel.

"Special measures were taken to stop the movement of the boat," the statement added. But it noted that a "complex situation" had been created.

forces were approaching the situation with calm to avoid taking "drastic measures."

The hijackers had women and children among them, it added.

In a reference to Cuba's claim that illegal exits from the island are encouraged by U.S. immigration policy on Cubans, the statement noted that the latest incident came barely a day after Secretary of State Warren Christopher said the United States would continue to receive Cubans who had left the island illegally.

The incident in Mariel took place just hours after a rally there in the morning to honour a naval officer authorities say was killed in the port a week ago by hijackers of a naval vessel to the United States.

The hijacking of the naval vessel was the fourth of a state-owned Cuban vessel in two weeks by would-be emigrants.

Three hijackings of ferry boats from Havana Bay triggered unprecedented street clashes in the Cuban capital on Aug. 25 in which 35 people were injured.

Cubans armed with knives and a gun hijacked a fishing boat and ordered it to sail to the United States, but the vessel instead went to Jamaica, police said Sunday.

Sri Lanka to restore state of emergency after polls

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka President Dingiri Bandula Wijetunga will reintroduce a state of emergency after Tuesday's parliamentary elections, officials said Monday.

The emergency lapsed a month ago, following the dissolution of parliament in June to clear the way for Tuesday's general election.

Officials at Wijetunga's office said the emergency would take effect from midnight Wednesday.

Emergency regulations gives sweeping powers to security forces to arrest and detain suspects. The government move came amid fears of violence after Tuesday's election.

A statement from Mr. Wijetunga's office said he had decided to use emergency powers and declare the two days after balloting as public holidays, but make employers pay their staff for those two days.

"The emergency is not in force right now. But it will go into effect from midnight Wednesday," a spokesman for the presidential secretariat said.

Mr. Wijetunga will have to seek approval of the state of emergency from the parliament that will be elected Tuesday.

The emergency, first imposed in May 1983 to deal with separatist Tamil guerrillas, required monthly approval from parliament but since the assembly was dissolved in June the tough laws

could not be continued beyond mid-July.

Sri Lanka's opposition Monday accused the government of attempting to withdraw elite army bodyguards given to their leader Chandrika Kumaratunga despite threats against her life.

Opposition spokesman G. L. Peiris told reporters here that Defence Secretary Hamilton Wanasinghe informed them that the pull-out decision was taken after allegations that the commandos had been intimidating ruling-party men.

However, a Defence Ministry spokesman said that the decision was revoked and that commandos continued to guard Mr. Kumaratunga, who was forced to scale down the final round of campaigning for Tuesday's parliamentary elections.

"The Defence Ministry itself had earlier told her that there is a threat (against her life) and to be careful... This (withdrawal order) makes us highly suspicious."

Mr. Kumaratunga has accused the government of trying to eliminate her before Tuesday's parliamentary elections, but Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has denied the charge.

Nigeria banks stay closed; teachers begin strike

LAGOS (AFP) — Hundreds of cash-strapped Lagos bank customers anxious to withdraw money were disappointed Monday when banks stayed closed, though bank workers, had been directed to resume work Monday, an AFP correspondent noted.

The employees' more than month-old strike was suspended last Thursday.

Of the 18 banks visited by AFP here Monday, none opened to the crowd of customers who massed in front of the bank gates, looking desperate after having been starved of cash since the bank workers went on strike.

Speaking on a television programme Sunday, the National President of the National Union of Banks, Insurance and Financial Institution Employees (NUBIFIE), Mr. Githassoo, assured Nigerians that Lagos banks would open Monday following last Thursday's suspension of the strike action.

An official of Union Bank of Nigeria, one of the three biggest banks in the country, told AFP that the banks were not yet open to the public because of "political tension" and because most banks have not enough cash to satisfy customers' needs.

The Lagos state branch of the NUBIFIE is also affiliated with the state's branch of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), which last Friday, following an agreement with government, suspended its one-month-old strike.

The NLC called the strike to press for unconditional release of Moshood Abiola, principal opposition figure, and other political detainees.

But despite the suspension, at Lagos bus stops Friday morning, scores of commuters, most reporting for work for the first time since the strike, were stranded.

Although there were more vehicles on Lagos roads in the morning compared to previous weeks.

Curtain falls on 1994 Woodstock

SAUGERTIES, N.Y. (AP) — Its energy spent, the Woodstock nation of 1994 lumbered home Monday from the sloppy festival grounds like a column of walking dead.

They died smiling. For all the rain and mud, the filthy toilets and lack of showers, the delays and organisational foulups, there were few regrets. Tired, wet and hungry, people left in a sort of grumbling bliss.

"It's been awesome. This is going to go down in history," said Joe Walsh of Richfield, Conn. "I'll remember it — how long will I remember it? Forever, I guess."

But it wasn't all peace and love in this instant city of 350,000.

Some who bought the \$135 tickets never got in, stranded in parking lots miles from the site when shuttle bus service unravelled. As many as 150,000 people got in free as security slackened.

Others fled bad vibes. Gail Tosh, 26, of Baltimore arrived Saturday morning and left just a few hours later without seeing any of the bands.

"It's violent, it's scary," she said by telephone from her mother's house in Syracuse. "There were no signs telling you where to go and what to do. People are falling down on the ground, and people are closing in on top of them. There was no form of crowd control. And it was a nasty crowd, not a nice crowd."

Finally, Woodstock 94 was about the music. Counting the all-night dance raves and small bands that played till dawn, it was essentially non-stop rock 'n' roll for almost 72 hours.

Most of the 40-odd acts put on memorable shows, from Joe Cocker's reprise of his classic performance at the 1969 Woodstock to Salt 'N' Pepa's slinky stage histrionics.

Peter Gabriel closed the show early Monday with Biko, his tribute to the martyred South African activist, Stephen Biko.



Concert goers make their way through the mud on their way to the north stage of Woodstock 94. Heavy rains turned the grounds into a field of mud causing some of those attending to change the name of the concert to "Mudstock" (AFP photo)

gleamed behind a rolling layer of grizzled gray clouds as Bob Dylan prepared to take the stage. During Rainy Day Women No. 12 And 35, spectators chanted back at Dylan — "everybody must get stoned" — and the scent of marijuana rose through the air.

With people ankle-deep in mud and awash in a kaleidoscope of tie-dye, this Woodstock resembled the original on Max Yasgur's farm in Bethel, 90 kilometres southwest. But there were obvious differences.

As people filed out overnight to board shuttle buses back to their cars, the techno music of an all-night rave hammered at their backs. Police said it could be late tonight or Tuesday morning before the traffic clears out.

Four deaths were reported, including a man who died of complications from diabetes and another from a ruptured spleen for which he had been treated before coming to Woodstock. Two others died in a car crash on the New York State highway on their way home.

Police made 14 arrests, including a man who assaulted a woman in a tent and then turned on police. More than 3,000 people were treated for mostly minor injuries.

People grumbled about food shortages, the disordered shantytowns of tents, the crush of the crowds, the scheduling mixups that forced lots of people to arrive late or not at all. Many left feeling the promoters profit before concert-goers' safety and well-being.

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Jordan Times advertising department.**The population divide**

THE WORLD Conference on Population in Cairo is only weeks away and it is already showing signs of strains. The controversy emerging prior to the convening of the conference is reminiscent of the one that predated the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna last summer. There is already ample division among the participants that could wreck the conference and frustrate its objectives.

The central dividing issue is the abortion subject, with all its religious, economic and political implications. Some argue that women should have the choice if they wish to abort their unwanted fetuses. Others insist that the right to life includes the right of unborn children.

Also economists worldwide are alarmed by the surge in world population and what that could mean to the strained economies of the developing world and the international environment. In effect, the world is still divided on this issue along religious and human rights lines with some traditional societies and many human rights advocates saying the right to life cannot be sacrificed for economic or even social reasons.

The controversy acquires an added urgency as both camps have ample ammunition to buttress their arguments and submissions in defence of their respective points of view.

Yet there are simple facts that cannot be ignored: The world is getting to be overpopulated and something needs to be done to slow or even reverse the pace of population growth. The crux of the problem is how to go about doing this. It would seem that reasonable birth control policies could be introduced without any encroachment on the right to life. Instead of aborting offsprings, parental control can be introduced with a view to encouraging smaller family sizes. Religious views on such issues should be respected. Freedom of religion entails not only the right to worship but also the right to uphold one's religious ideas on abortion and child bearing. However, there is no doubt that compromises could be reached between the opposing views in order to salvage the Cairo meeting. This would mean watering down the language of the final communiqué to leave sufficient flexibility for all sides to accommodate their different postures.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Monday said the quick response by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to His Majesty King Hussein's call to set up a Royal commission to develop and modernise Jordan stresses one of the main aspects of the Kingdom. The paper said in its editorial that this aspect is the harmony existing between the Kingdom's domestic and foreign policies in facing modern time developments. Prince Hassan, said the paper, stressed in his reply letter to King Hussein two main issues: First is developing legislations and the second is administrative development of the state of law and administrations in a manner that would achieve more justice and guarantee respect for the sovereignty of law. It said this was natural to come at this time, since the issue of development and modernisation has become a necessity not only at the regional level, but also at the international level which is changing swiftly. The paper said the announcement of forming the Royal Commission on Modernisation and Development signalled the start of rearranging the Jordanian house and preparing it for the coming stage.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Monday said a strike call announced by Arab municipalities and institutions in Israeli areas to demand equality with Jewish municipalities was a clear indicator for the Palestinian negotiators and for Jordan and the other Arab countries that "the peace process" had not positively affected Israeli tendencies and its treatment of its Arab "nationals." Tareq Masarweh said in his column that this gives an indication of the Israeli future treatment of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip who are going to live under a self-rule supervised by Israel. He said Arab municipal and rural councils are bankrupt to an extent that makes them unable to pay salaries for their employees, and makes them backward to a limit that large Arab cities are lacking schools and sewerage networks. At the same time, he said, the Israeli state spends millions of dollars to establish infrastructure for settlements which are more like tourist spas, although their population might not exceed 40 people. Arabs living in Israel can be taken as a measure of the Zionist movement's seriousness in the peace process, he said. He added that if the Arab Nation is required to adopt moderate stands in the peace process and if the Palestinians were to give up their legitimate national rights for the sake of peace, Israel is also required to be moderate in dealing with its Arab nationals as it should be in dealing with Palestinians in the self-rule areas and in its stands on Palestinian refugees and displaced persons.

The View from Fourth Circle**1st skirmish between the religious and the materialists**

THE INTERNATIONAL Conference on Population and Development that will take place in Cairo in early September has triggered an intriguing alliance of people who believe that religion is not only about personal spirituality, but also about how societies should be organised. The main opposition to the conference draft declaration has been forcefully expressed by the Vatican and by several leading Islamic bodies, including Cairo's Al Azhar University and the Iranian leadership.

The specific objections they raise to the draft document are that it could be seen as promoting abortion, extramarital sex, homosexuality, and prostitution, while Islamists see it as part of a Western strategy to keep down the world's Muslim population. Whether or not these are correct readings of the draft document is secondary to the more important fact that global and national ideological debate is being framed increasingly in terms of religion vs. materialism.

Last week, the Vatican representative in Tehran met with the brother of the Iranian President to coordinate their opposition to the Cairo conference declaration. Following the meeting, one member of the Iranian government said that the understanding and collaboration between the Vatican and Iran laid the basis for wider cooperation in "a future war between the religious and the materialists."

An Iranian newspaper subsequently stated that the Iranian president's brother, deputy foreign minister Mohammad Hashemi Rafsanjani, announced Iran's "full endorsement of the collaboration with the Vatican and said there were many avenues for cooperation between religious states."

The intriguing element here is the convergence of views among two of the world's largest religions, and the wider implications of political cooperation among forces that believe society should be organised explicitly according to religious dictates and morality. For those who seek an organisational principle that can neatly explain the lines of global confrontation in a world that is no longer simply divided into East and West, this may be a good candidate to examine more closely.

The desire to organise society according to religious morality is evident throughout the world, and not only among Catholics and Islamists. The rise of the religious right in the United States, the controversies over the writings of Salman Rushdie and Taslima Nasreen, and the politicisation of Islamic and Hindu sentiment in India, for example, all reflect the wider struggle that is taking place about the appropriate balance between religion and personal rights, in a world in which states are increasingly being organised along secular lines. The recent historical dominance of the Western concept of secular nation-states, in which religion and politics are explicitly separated, is clearly being challenged throughout the world.

In the United States, the religious right has made steady inroads into the grassroots institutions of the Republican Party. Recent surveys suggest that the fundamentalist Christian right, associated with the Christian Coalition of televangelist Pat Robertson, controls the Republican Party apparatus in 10 states and exercises significant influence in eight others.

In the recent Republican Party convention in the state of Texas, rightwing Christian fundamentalist delegates successfully elected Tom Panken as the new party leader on the slogan "a vote for Panken is a vote for God". A moderate Republican state official who lost to the Christian right noted: "These people aren't interested in politics. They are interested in establishing a theocracy."

The rise of politicised religions throughout the world is neither new nor unusual. The secular nation-state is the newcomer on the block of human civilisation. Except for the last several centuries in Western Europe and North America, religion has been the dominant organisational and moral force in most societies throughout the entire world. The advent of the modern secular nation-state in Europe and North America in the 18th Century was the historical turning point that sought the separation of state and religion, and that relegated religion to the realm of personal spirituality. This was a daring and revolutionary attempt to separate the realm of the divine from the routine of daily politics and governance.

As social and economic problems have increased throughout the world in recent decades, and existing secular nation-states have proved unable to deal with problems of employment, violence, drugs, alienation and other ills of "modernisation", people have instinctively turned to religion and ethnicity as sources of comfort in hard times.

A new study published this month by the Washington-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies states that religion has been systematically neglected by U.S. policy-makers, diplomats and journalists as a factor in international affairs. It notes that the U.S. has focussed on economic, military, social and political factors that impact on international relations among states, but has neglected the role of religion.

Two reasons are given for this: the Western secular separation of church and state, and the focus on "national interest", power and material advantage as the main determinants of inter-state relations, while ignoring the role of "ideals."

The consensus and even the collaboration among the Vatican, Iran and Al Azhar in opposing elements in the Cairo conference declaration provide the most dramatic example to date of the determination of religiously oriented people to confront what they see as the excesses of the modern materialist state. The Cairo conference oppositional consensus among Islamists and Western Catholics is unlikely to be repeated so overtly in other fields, because few other subjects can bring these parties together as can their strong sentiments about abortion and sexual morality.

The likelihood is not for more transnational religious coalitions such as the one forged to change the Cairo conference declaration, but rather for a continued increase in the profile, power and impact of religiously oriented groups within individual countries. The "future war between the religious and the materialists" is already well underway.

in many countries; it is especially evident in societies suffering severe socio-economic disparities, where more and more people turn to God because they are unconvinced that the state can assure them the material needs and the human dignity that are their due as human beings and believers. In the United States, economic disparities, racism and injustice are the main reasons why religion plays such a strong role in black, hispanic and other minority communities. Among white, middle class Christian fundamentalists, ties. The power of religious assertion derives mainly from fears that traditional social and economic structures may collapse due to runaway libertinism and moral laxity. A similar set of concerns drives believers in Islamic and other developing societies; some turn to God to help them redress injustice and oppression, others to preserve their way of life and dignity in the face of rapid change and the alienating impact of foreign forces.

Few countries are likely to form proper theocracies ruled directly by religious texts and dicta; these were tried in ancient and medieval times, and eventually gave way to more complex, egalitarian and participatory forms of governance. However, we will continue to see religion used as a dynamic force that seeks to redress excesses and inequities in society, whether these be political, economic, social or moral in nature.

In countries where civil society structures exist, religion will work through these mechanisms, as it is doing in political parties in the United States. Where civil society systems are young or nonexistent, religious sentiment will probably be expressed in the form of mass movements, public rallies and direct challenges to existing state structures, often calling for theocratic states.

It is interesting that the coalition of the Vatican with Iranian, Egyptian and other Islamists seems to have given the Islamist viewpoint more strength and credibility in the run-up to the Cairo conference; the Islamists cannot simply be written off as religious extremists or dreamers, as they might have been had they opposed the Cairo document on their own. The convergence of Islamic and Catholic views in this instance seems to run against the global consensus; but, it will be taken seriously at Cairo for two reasons: a) the combined political and demographic force of the two parties today, and b) the realisation that religious sentiment will continue to play an important and probably a growing role in global politics for decades to come, and therefore it must be engaged as a legitimate political actor.

In the post-cold war struggle between the religious and the materialists, this is an important first skirmish. It is noteworthy for its confrontational aspect, but also for what it reveals about the possibilities for joint action when religiously minded people from different civilisations work together for a single cause. The really intriguing questions, however, remain open for discussion: Is this controversy showing the marginalised condition of the Catholic Church in Western society, or is it heralding the emergence of a global moral majority that includes significant elements of Western, Christian, Islamic and developing societies?

Middle East water crisis — time is running out

By Ann Milnes Roberts

LAST MONTH, in the heat of a July afternoon on the parched border north of Aqaba and Eilat, Jordanian and Israeli delegations met and talked peace. They agreed to "mutually recognise as a result of negotiations the rightful allocations of the two sides in Jordan and Yarmouk River water and to fully respect and comply with the negotiated rightful allocations in accordance with agreed principles." After many years of fear, suspicion and outright war, it seems a start can be made to solving the region's water problems — and only just in time.

In the next few years, Jordan and Israel will have developed all renewable sources of water and will also have reached a crisis in the use of non-renewable water supplies from deep aquifers formed in ancient times. The region was already suffering from severe water shortage before the recent influx of Soviet Jews to Israel and of some 300,000 Palestinians into Jordan during the Gulf crisis. In 1992, Jordan's population stood at 3,500,000. By 2020 it is expected to rise to 10 million. In water terms, much of the region is already running on empty tanks. In Jordan, Israel and the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the rivers and underground water sources have been so heavily tapped that they have almost run dry, or are so salinated so to be unusable.

Towards catastrophe
Last year, IPCRI, the Jerusalem-based Israel-Palestine Centre for Research and Information, asked a group of Israeli and Palestinian water scientists to work together on a proposal for the development of a "Regional Water Master Plan". Whilst stressing that they do not represent the official positions of the sides to the dispute, their report conveys a consensus view of the region's water requirements. They suggest that if Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians were each to adopt as a goal no more than the barest minimum of

water required by each person for human survival, the so-called Minimum Water Requirement (MWR), Israel might just be able to get by on its own resources in the year 2020. But by then Jordan would need to import some 150 million cubic metres of water a year — 12 per cent of its consumption; whilst more than half of all the water required by the Palestinians would have to be imported.

"If there's no agreement on water, there'll be no peace settlement. We are now living in a water crisis. It's not yet a catastrophe, but by the year 2010 we'll end up having nothing."

The IPCRI team assume that the MWR for survival is 100 cubic metres of water per person per year for combined domestic and industrial use, together a further 25 cm³ per growing fresh food for local consumption. (Recycling all urban waste water from this 125 cm³ level will generate a further 65 cm³ for non-potable purposes). By comparison with this 125 cm³ per person, the theoretical maximum availability of water for the region's inhabitants in 1992 (derived from their own resources) was estimated at 300 cubic metres for Israelis, 315 for Jordanians and 150 for Palestinians.

The outlook for 2020 is therefore bleak. If it wants to rely on its own water resources, an Israel returning to its 1967 borders will have to cut consumption by half. But hanging on to the occupied territories only makes matters worse, since it is the territories that would be the first to face a water deficit. The Palestinians can only count on producing some 60 cubic metres of water per person in 2020 — barely half the minimum drinking requirement. As for Jordan, its 2020 prospect is for per capita production of just 110 cubic metres.

If anything, such figures may be optimistic. They may well both underestimate Palestinian population growth and overestimate Jordanian water availability. A Palestinian population of some 6-7 million looks more likely for the year 2020, while Elias Salameh, a Jordanian hydrologist, puts Jordan's total resources at 896 million cubic metres, against Turkey's solution to all this is its \$20bn project to transport water to both the Jordan Valley and the Gulf, and subsequent variants on the original 1986 "Peace Pipeline" proposal. But no real progress has yet been made on such schemes. IPCRI has a simpler suggestion: water exchange. This involves the Jordanians, Palestinians and possibly the Israelis joining together to purchase water from Turkey (say 300 mcm per year) which would be allowed to flow naturally through the Euphrates river where it could be stored for

use by Syria in the Euphrates Dam. Syria would then release extra water from the Yarmouk for use by Jordanians, Palestinians and Israelis.

This plan depends heavily on Syria's cooperation. Once again, it demonstrates the difficulty of Israel and Jordan attempting to go it alone. It must be stressed that many Palestinians are highly suspicious of such plans. This writer, recently examining water resources on the West Bank, found Palestinian hydrologists — cut off from information and constantly harassed by the Israeli military — insist on the need to establish control over their own water before they looked at any sharing of such a vital resource.

At present, sheer cost rules out the use of water desalination for agriculture, making it unlikely that proposed multinational sea-water desalination plants at Aqaba and Eilat will be built in the near future. At the regional water talks in Oman in April, there was agreement that ways of cutting desalination costs should be pursued. A cheaper alternative might be the desalination of brackish water by reverse osmosis. Other strategies include extending the recycling of urban waste water for crop growing and improved pollution controls. Better water treatment processes should prevent further contamination while solar energy use

might be extended to waste water treatment. More efficient household appliance would cut domestic waste. Better plumbing could save up to 50 per cent of household water in some West Bank and Jordanian towns.

Israel is at the forefront of advanced irrigation techniques and once trade barriers come down following peace agreements, the entire region should share information on such techniques, the lining of canals and ditches, the development of dryland farming and a switch to salt-tolerant crops. Small differences in irrigation efficiency levels can involve huge quantities of water. However, it may well be that farmers find that it costs so much to bring the water to the crops that ground water irrigation may in fact no longer be feasible.

There are daunting problems regarding the peace process. The viability of any bilateral water-sharing agreement must certainly be questioned. With a growing population and a shrinking water supply, the time for looking and making claims is over. For the arid countries of the Middle East, this is the eleventh hour.

Ann Milnes Roberts writes on Middle East water and was recently in the West Bank and Jordan. The article is reprinted from Middle East International.

Syrian move seen as positive

(Continued from page 1)

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Jordan Times that Syria was now expected to appoint an ambassador to Amman and accept the reappointment of the Jordanian ambassador to Damascus.

Syria has not had an ambassador to Jordan since the last one ended his mission more than a year ago. "This is definitely an indication that relation between Syria and Jordan are still strong despite the negative media propaganda that suggests otherwise," said one official, adding that "media openness is very crucial to positive communication."

Lower House Deputy Abdul Karim Kabariti said that "Jordanian-Syrian relations should not be conditioned to the variable emerging situations."

"Both sides should base their relations on their long-standing strategic harmony in order to serve the two countries' political, economic and security interests," Mr. Kabariti said.

He added that "this continuous harmony reflects the congruence of the Jordanian and Syrian points of view in regard to safeguarding strategic interests."

JTV director-general Ihsan Ramzi said the end to Syria's jamming of JTV broadcasts also ended an "abnormal situation which, prevailed since the Gulf war."

Mr. Ramzi said that JTV has always cooperated with Syrian Television and both stations are "complementary in delivering one message."

According to the sources, Syrian moves to end the strain in ties by adopting symbolic measures should be viewed against the backdrop of the latest developments in the peace process.

King reaffirms stand

(Continued from page 1)

dan's honourable position during the Gulf Crisis in 1990, saying that "future generations will remember that it was a position of honour and manhood."

He noted that Jordan did not allow any party to use the Gulf crisis to use its land or airspace to carry out attacks against another.

The King said Jordan had given and sacrificed more than any other country and therefore it had every right to "live, prosper and set an ideal example for others."

"What Jordan has achieved with very limited resources, of compared to what others have achieved, gives us the confidence that we are going to achieve more in the future," the King said.

The King said Jordan refuses to sign a peace accord and then negotiate.

"We first negotiate and then sign," the King said, adding that the negotiation process involves top level meetings to discuss everything.

He said that Jordan was the only country that raised the issue of the 1948 Palestinian refugees, and the need either to repatriate them or compensate them in accordance with international legitimacy.

The King called on the Palestinians to unify their ranks and said Jordan would continue to support them, until they are in a position to opt between remaining as members of the united Jordanian family or select otherwise.

King Hussein said Palestinians living in Jordan are welcome to stay and wished those "who choose another way" good luck.

Jordan was obliged to discuss the issue of Jerusalem rather than delay it till a later stage as stipulated by the Israeli-Palestinian agreement "because our holy places are

dear to us and what happened is a recognition of a reality only," said King Hussein, referring to the Washington Declaration preserving Jordan's sovereignty over Islamic sites in the Holy City.

"This reality started since the martyrdom of Hussein I and continued through saving Jerusalem in 1948, and the continuation of our duty towards Islamic holy places and our family and brethren," he added.

He said once peace was achieved Jordan would be able to rebuild and develop using its utmost, mainly in terms of modernising the Armed Forces.

Jordan, he reiterated, does not fear peace and can deal with it and achieve a lot of aspirations with it.

Earlier Monday, King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, attended the graduation ceremony of the fourth air force command and war college course.

King Hussein was received at the celebration site by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai, the chief of staff of the Royal Air Force and the commander of the college.

The commander delivered an address in which he lauded King Hussein's leadership and highlighted the good reputation of the college. He said officers from Yemen, Pakistan and Malaysia had participated in the course.

At the end of the ceremony, King Hussein distributed diplomas to the graduating officers and awards to excellent ones.

The ceremony was attended by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein and Prince Hamzah Ben Al Hussein, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Lower House of Parliament Speaker Taher Al Masri and senior army officers.

Jordan, Israel resume talks

(Continued from page 1)

Times that Israel had required Jordanian planes to fly at a very low altitude or a very high one which practically would erase any economic benefit Jordan would have gained from taking the shorter route to Europe over Israel.

One source said that the teams were still negotiating the "altitude problem" although the two sides appeared set to agree on at least one route for their flights.

"There is a possibility that agreement would be reached by the end of this week," the source said.

In the economic committee, the two sides agreed on

an additional list for export to the West Bank with an export value of \$30 million. "This would be over and above our agreed list of exports from Jordan which the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel agreed in their Cairo agreement," a negotiator said.

Although the Israeli side had originally protested that it could not negotiate an additional list with the Jordanian side to the one reached between Israel and the PLO, the two sides agreed to allow Jordan to export to "the areas outside the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho" at a value of \$30 million till the end of this year.

Jordanian sources said these goods would be "subject to Israeli taxes."

PLO launches crackdown

(Continued from page 1)

By nightfall, just six had been freed, Hamas sources said. Palestinian sources said the homes of three suspects from Izzedine Al Qassam, the armed underground wing of Hamas, were raided but they were out.

The Palestinian justice minister, Fathi Abu Medini, announced that the government would inaugurate weapons licences and confiscate unregistered guns.

Several of those held were among the 415 Palestinians expelled from the occupied territories in December 1992 and dumped in the mountains of southern Lebanon, sparking an international outcry.

Others were only recently released from Israeli jails under the May 4 autonomy accord. Palestinian police refused to give details of the operation but they were aided by members of the Palestinian security services many of whom are former members of the Fatah Hawks which worked with Hamas during the Israeli occupation.

Dr. Mahmoud Zahar, the Hamas spokesman in Gaza, said he was interviewed by senior Palestinian security officers who appeared to be trying to intimidate the group.

"We cannot accept the idea of seeing the Palestinian National Authority become a stick for the Israeli authorities," Dr. Zahar said in a telephone interview. Other members said they were forced to sign a pledge to uphold Palestinian security before being released.

Also Monday, a roadside bomb exploded just south of the West Bank town of Bethlehem, an area still under Israeli occupation, wounding three Israeli soldiers. Paramilitary police discovered and dismantled two other devices, an army statement

said.

The Erez talks are aimed at expanding Palestinian control over health, education, taxation and tourism beyond the Gaza and Jericho.

Dr. Shaath chided Mr. Rahin for threatening to slow the peace process, saying: "I don't think the question really is reprisal and counter-reprisal. Everyone must perform his responsibility... we are taking this very seriously."

The talks, with the Israeli side headed by Major General Danny Rothchild, were taking place about 25 kilometres north of the attack site.

Security was noticeably beefed up on roads around the Kissufim crossing, which leads to the Gush Katif settlements where some 4,000 Jews live.

Israeli soldiers patrolled on foot, and numerous joint Israeli-Palestinian police convoys moved along main roads.

An Israeli military source cautioned, however, that reinforcing troops was at best a partial solution because it was difficult to counter drive-by attacks.

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, added that Israel no longer had the intelligence apparatus and undercover units in place in the Gaza Strip to head off extremist attacks.

Hamas has been challenging the PLO to represent the world's six million Palestinians. It has engaged in a bloody conflict with PLO followers in the occupied territories in recent years.

Hamas vehemently opposed the autonomy accord signed by Israel and the PLO. But the group had repeatedly pledged not to confront Mr. Arafat's leadership and limit its attacks against Israeli targets.



Young Israelis are starting to admit that the Zionist dream was realised at the expense of Palestinians whom Israel inflicted great suffering and injustice (UNRWA photo)

Israel's 'new historians' Zionist myths among first casualties of peace

By Jeffrey Bartholet

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

The birth of the Jewish state was pure and simple — so says the standard Israeli narrative. In 1948 the newly declared state was attacked by five Arab armies bent on its destruction. By a miracle, and because of Israel's moral fortitude, it won. Roughly 700,000 Arabs of Palestine became refugees, but that was largely because Arab leaders, expecting quick victory, broadcast appeals for them to leave their homes. Israel desperately wanted peace, but the Arabs were intransigent.

Things aren't so clear any more. The prospect of Middle East peace is changing not only the way Israelis imagine their future but also the way they see their past. "What has been passed down to generations of Israelis is half-truths and lies," says

Israeli historian Benny Morris.

Mr. Morris is one of a vanguard of Israeli scholars called the "new historians." Applauded by some, loathed by others, the newcomers are using previously classified documents to sketch a much more critical picture of Zionism and Israel's early history. As detailed in a book and articles by Mr. Morris, for example, the story of 1948 now goes like this. The Jews had many more men under arms than the Arabs, and their advantage in education and training made up for an occasional inferiority in weaponry. There is no evidence of Arab radio appeals to flee, but hundreds of thousands of terrified Palestinians ran or were forcibly expelled from their towns and villages by Jewish fighters. Hundreds of Arab civilians were slaughtered, and Israeli leaders refused to

make concessions that might have made peace possible after the war.

By arguing that Israel was created at the expense of the Palestinians — and that Zionism was not an entirely noble enterprise — the new historians have hit some raw nerves. While some Israeli commentators dismiss the new historians as marginal, others worry that their views are undermining the country's sense of legitimacy. "If the rising tide of self-doubt fails to subside... we shall lack the strength to resist dangers to our very existence," argues Israeli novelist Aharon Megged.

The new historians retort that Israel may have needed its myths in the past, but is now strong enough to face facts. "The old historians participated in the 1948 war — that was the golden moment of their lives," says Mr. Morris. "So they couldn't

write bad things about it." The younger generation had its own defining moments: the nearly disastrous 1973 war, the 1979 peace agreement with Egypt, the ruinous 1982 invasion of Lebanon, the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and, most recently, the huge strides in peacemaking with the Palestinians and Jordan.

The debate has intensified in recent months. Older historians accuse the "youngsters" of exaggerating some events while ignoring others. The insurgents accuse their more established colleagues of trying to hide Zionism's dirty laundry. In his 1987 book on the Palestinian refugee problem, Mr. Morris details the killing in 1948 of some 250 Arab civilians in Lid in response to sniping and the forced expulsion of tens of thousands of residents from both Lid and Ramla. Netanel Lorch, who

authored a history of the war, didn't write about Lid because, he says, he didn't have the documents. "It's not like it was a secret," fumes Mr. Morris.

Lorch bristles over his colleague's focus on Israeli iniquity. "We won the war," he says, "and we don't have to feel guilty for that." The rewriting of Israeli history is not limited to 1948. Some historians have broadened the ultra-sensitive topic of "the Zionistisation of the Holocaust," and are questioning the role that Zionist leaders played during the Nazi period. They claim that Jewish leaders in Palestine didn't do enough to save the Jews in Europe, and attack politicians for manipulating the memory of the Holocaust to justify their own policies. (Former Prime Minister Menachem Begin claimed that the invasion of Lebanon was necessary be-

cause the alternative would be "Treblinka" — the Nazi death camp).

The controversy is about the future as much as the past. The peace agreements with the Palestinians are "causing changes in the self-perception of Israelis," says Anita Shapira, a prominent chronicler of Zionism. "It probably leads to some kind of identity crisis, and we're just at the beginning of this process." But will the "new history" ever eclipse the old? Already, some of Mr. Morris's findings on the Palestinian refugee problem are included in Israeli school textbooks. "In time, people get used to new ideas, and gradually the new ideas take over," says Mr. Morris. "The spirit of the times and the spirit of the new historiography are on the same track." Myths are one of the first casualties of peace.

Newsweek

Russia keeps its treasures locked away

By Janet Guttman Reuter

MOSCOW — The drab, white facade of the square block next to a Moscow railway line gives no hint of what's inside — a 300,000 rose of diamonds and platinum, a 47 kg golden globe and tens of thousands of gold teeth.

"I cannot tell you what it is all worth," said guide Inna Goncharova. "These are the state reserves and it is up to the president to tell you that — if he wants to do so."

The unmarked building, surrounded by sturdy metal railings and guarded day and night, houses Russia's precious metals committee, where bureaucrats draw up plans for export and production and collect gold and silver offered for sale at home.

The long-secret organisation recently opened its doors to a handful of journalists, allowing access to a tiny museum of ingots, gems, icons and jewels.

Workers responsible for sorting and restoring the treasures kept behind heavy steel doors talked cautiously to reporters from Russia and a few other countries. But officials kept the vaults of gold and diamonds tightly locked.

"Soon we hope to allow access to the reserves," committee Chairman Yevgeny Bychkov told a news conference after the tour.

Gold has been the shining exception to the generally dismal picture of Russian industrial output. Officials expect gold production to be little changed at

around 150 tonnes this year.

Elsewhere in the economy struggling to adapt to a capitalist way of life, output has been falling sharply.

Industrial production fell 25.8 per cent in the first six months of this year. This is marginally better than the average fall of 27.6 per cent for the Commonwealth of Independent States, the loose grouping formed when the Soviet Union fell apart.

Russia has state and government reserves of about 320 tonnes gold, down from 2,049 tonnes in 1953, before the Soviet Union started selling it to pay its bills.

Russia is also a big producer of diamonds and platinum, both of which bring in valuable export revenue. But production figures and the size of the platinum and diamond reserves are closely guarded secrets — a legacy of the reticence of Soviet days and an effort to avoid disrupting sensitive world markets.

The committee's Moscow headquarters is divided into two sections, an administrative block and a secure building where gems are sorted, gold weighed and silver assessed to see if it should be saved, sold or melted down for scrap.

A single armed security man watches the entrance to the secure half of the building where electronic gates limit access to each floor.

Workers leave gold rings at home or in battered strong boxes outside the lifts, insurance against the temptation to slip away with a particularly attractive ring.

French policy on Algeria could create more chaos

By John Riddling

IN A disused army barracks in the village of Folembay, north-east of Paris, 17 Muslim fundamentalists are being detained by the French government. The targets of French crackdown on Algerian militants following the deaths of five French citizens in Algiers last week, the suspected militants have been served with expulsion orders.

Mr. Charles Pasqua, France's hardline interior minister, says the 17 are free to leave as soon as they find a host country willing to take them. But so far, there have been no offers and French government officials said they had not sought to identify countries which would grant them political asylum.

If the inmates of Folembay find themselves trapped, their detention also symbolises the snare in which French policy towards Algeria is tangled. France's unyielding stance towards Algerian fundamentalists, and its reluctance to deal with moderate Muslims in its former colony, reveals a policy rift with its western partners.

More worrying, the latest crackdown has raised threats of reprisals from Algerian radicals, which some fear could drag France into the bitter and bloody conflict between the military-led regime in Algiers and its Muslim fundamentalist opponents. The conflict has claimed the lives of at least 4,000 Algerians and 56 foreigners over the past two years.

The possibility that France may be drawn ever closer to the crisis was clearly demonstrated at the weekend in a message from the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), a

militant grouping which is linked to the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). The FIS was poised to win general elections in 1992, before they were cancelled by the Algerian government. The front is now outlawed.

The AIS is demanding the immediate release of the 17 detainees. "The arrest and detention of these brothers means that France has declared war on the FIS and on Algerian Muslims," the statement said. "France should renounce this policy of belligerence or it will assume responsibility for what will happen."

The warning is the first issued to France by Algerian radicals, and the French government is taking it seriously. "There will be no neglect of the threat," said the interior ministry, which responded at the weekend with a tightening of security measures at railway stations, airports and embassies and with high-profile police operations to check the identity papers of motorists.

The response reflects the risks involved. France is anxious to avoid an eruption of violence among its Algerian community, which has so far remained aloof from the conflict in the former French colony. An estimated one million Algerians live legally in France, with the number pushed higher by illegal immigrants.

One academic Algerian expert believes it is "certainly possible" that fundamentalist guerrilla networks exist and could mount attacks within France.

But France's tough reaction to last week's attack in Algiers also reflects its broader, relatively uncompromising policy over the Algerian

crisis. Such a stance has drawn criticism from opponents of France's centre-right government. The Socialist Party has urged dialogue with Muslim moderates in Algeria, and has criticised Mr. Pasqua's high-handed approach. So far, however, the government's stance appears to have public backing, although some newspapers, such as Le Monde, argue economic aid to Algeria should increasingly be linked to political reforms.

France's strategy has highlighted differences with its western partners, who are more willing to develop contacts with Muslim moderates. One senior U.S. State Department official said last week's killings "only reinforce the concern we have that the Algerian government should broaden its political dialogue" to opposition group that reject violence. By contrast, Mr. Pasqua stated that the only choice is between the existing, if flawed, regime and a radical Islamic government. He dismisses as "rubbish" the idea of a moderate Islamic government taking power in Algeria.

The rift has become clearer since the attack on the French embassy building in Algiers. Mr. Pasqua accused the U.K., the U.S. and Germany of being too lenient towards Muslim fundamentalists on their soil, a charge rejected by France's partners. One French foreign ministry official argued that the U.S. is "still traumatised" by its experience in Iran and is keen to cultivate ties with moderate Islamic leaders.

For France, the prospect of a radical Islamic government in Algeria is of acute concern. In addition to fears shared by

other nations of a domino effect across the Maghreb, France is anxious to avoid an influx of thousands of immigrants from its former colony should a radical government come to power.

With unemployment at 12.7 per cent and with anti-immigration parties such as the Front National winning about 10 per cent of the vote in most regional and national elections, a big influx of refugees from Algeria could exacerbate social tensions in France. "It must be a great concern," says one western diplomat in Paris, "particularly if one considers the localised effects in areas such as Marseille, where there is already a large Algerian and North African community."

France's gamble is that, by providing qualified political support for the existing regime in Algeria and supplying finance to ease its economic plight, this possibility can be avoided. Earlier this year, France agreed to the rescheduling of \$5 billion of the country's \$26 billion foreign debt to the Paris Club creditor nations.

The stakes of the gamble, however, are rising ever higher. An upsurge in violence in Algeria since the lull this spring supports the admission of Mr. Alain Juppe, French foreign minister, that "the status quo is no longer tenable."

In terms of French policy, last week's attack has made the status quo still harder to maintain. But by treating the Algerian crisis as a security issue, as demonstrated by the latest clampdown, the French government risks creating the instability at home that it is so anxious to avoid.

The Financial Times

Syria keeps self-sufficiency despite poor wheat harvest

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria's 1994 wheat harvest declined by almost one third against last year's 3.6 million tonnes but officials said it was still beyond the country's self-sufficiency targets.

They said the 1994 wheat harvest totalled 2.6 million tonnes, 400,000 tonnes more than Syria's annual needs of 2.2 million.

There was also a sharp decline in barley yields — more than 50 per cent less than the 1.5 million tonnes target set by the government, they said.

Syria harvested 1.5 million tonnes of barley in 1993. The officials attributed the slump to a heat wave that hit crops earlier than expected. But despite adverse weather conditions, they said 1994 output hiked Syria's wheat stockpile to more than four million tonnes.

But the government had no plans to export any of the crop, they added.

They said only 700,000 tonnes of the 1.8 million stockpile of barley were earmarked for export.

Syria halted wheat exports

in 1992 when yields topped consumption to reach 2.8 million tonnes. Its 1991 harvest stood at 2.1 million tonnes.

The officials said Syria was finding it difficult to provide proper storage facilities for its crops. Of its stockpile of 6.5 million tonnes, the country only has the capacity for 1.6 million.

A government newspaper said most of cereals were being stored in the open air. Syria is planning new silos to boost storage capacity to 1.93 million tonnes.

Syria's cereal exports in the

first half of 1994 were worth 1.5 billion pounds (\$357 million).

Syria to expand corn production

Syria is planning to increase corn production by more than 25 per cent next year to 380,000 tonnes to meet a surge in local demand.

Hassan Alio, general manager of the state-owned Fodder Company told Reuters the production target, if met, would slash annual corn imports from 200,000 to 150,000 tonnes.

Russia unveils moves to kick-start economy

MOSCOW (R) — Russia announced measures Monday to kick-start the economy with trillions of rubles in credits to help restructure industry and agriculture.

Under a decree signed last week by President Boris Yeltsin, Russian enterprises will be able to compete for 4.2 trillion rubles (\$2 billion) in state credits, either for investment projects or to help them convert to other activities.

"They have to be viable commercial projects which will give a return on the money," Deputy Economics Minister Vladimir Kosov told a news conference.

The enterprises themselves

would have to provide a third of the money for conversion projects and half for investment.

"We are trying to give state credits only after an enterprise invests its own money," Mr. Kosov said.

He said that, including credits already granted in the first quarter, the total sums available for the year would be 1.4 trillion (\$700 million) for conversion projects and 2.8 trillion (\$1.4 billion) for investment projects.

In the second half of this year, 1.5 trillion rubles (\$750 million) would be earmarked for agro-industrial investment.

The credits would be available at a monthly interest rate of 10 per cent and all projects had to come to fruition by the end of next year. State investment would be no more than 17 per cent of all investment in Russia in 1994, Mr. Kosov said.

The money to provide the credits was already in the budget.

Deputy Finance Minister Sergei Alexashenko said Russia had a payments crisis due to firms producing goods that nobody wanted to buy and enterprises failing to restructure enough.

Debts between firms stand at about 90 trillion rubles (\$45 billion) and a commission under first deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets has

been set up to deal with the problem.

Mr. Alexashenko said another decree would allow firms to sell their products at below manufacturing costs. This was previously seen as a way to avoid tax and was punishable by heavy fines.

Mr. Yeltsin has issued a series of decrees this year in an effort to steer economic reforms and keep the initiative from a parliament dominated by conservatives and communists.

"Life moves more quickly than our lawmakers can act — if we were to live according to the constitution and wait for all the laws, I fear we would have many, many problems," Mr. Alexashenko said.

Egypt's SUMED oil pipeline pumps record volume

CAIRO (R) — The Egypt-based SUMED oil pipeline pumped a record 41.15 million tonnes of crude oil in the first half of this year and expects further sharp increases in volume, a senior company official said Sunday.

Oil movement manager Mohammad Fawzi said the pipeline, a major conduit for European-bound oil from the Gulf, expected the flow of oil to jump to 47 million tonnes in the second half of the year.

He said the previous highest volume of oil transported was exactly 40 million tonnes in the first six months of 1993, or 1.6 million barrels per day.

Analysts foresee possible trouble for Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Despite clear signs of recovery in the battered Turkish economy, analysts say dilution of the government's austerity plan and the lack of follow-through may plunge the country into a deeper crisis.

Even treasury officials fear the recovery could be temporary unless concrete measures are taken to improve the flagging privatisation drive and poor tax collection.

Other economists caution that unexpectedly high farm price supports, unveiled by the government in a bid for rural support, could doom the hard-won gains of the past few months.

"Stabilisation packages normally produce positive results in the short-term. The

issue is how to sustain this improvement," a senior state economist said. "The World Bank's structural adjustment and sectorial adjustment loans are not being released as we have taken no concrete step for a permanent solution."

In recent months, the lira has stabilised, the rate of inflation has slowed, and the trade and current account deficits have narrowed — first results of a tough austerity programme.

But analysts see signs of possible trouble ahead.

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's coalition government, launched an IMF-backed austerity plan on April 5, calling for tighter spending, a freeze on wages and investments in

accelerated self-offs, higher prices and one-off taxes.

It failed, however, to push a streamlined sell-off law through parliament. As a result, the government has lowered its 1994 privatisation target to \$1.5 billion from \$2.3 billion.

"The government hoped to use more than half of the self-off revenue to finance the budget gap. Now it is certain that the \$2.3 billion target will not be reached," a senior official said.

"We may borrow inside at a cost raising interest rates or print money at a cost of monetising deficits to fill the gap. Or we can borrow abroad which seems hard to do," he said.

In another possible blow to

the recovery, the government backtracked on its pledge to the IMF that farm price supports would be narrowed to cover only cereals, sugarbeets and tobacco.

Actual support also covered sunflowers, hazelnuts, cotton, lentils and raisins — seen by political analysts as a sign of an early election next year.

The government is planning to introduce special consumption taxes to increase revenues. But so far there has been no sign of the key more — taxation of the underground economy.

Official scenarios based on the assumption the government will stick by its tough programme suggest a moderate improvement by the end

of the year.

State economists forecast the economy, which grew in 1993 by 7.3 per cent, will shrink by one per cent, lower than earlier forecasts of up to four per cent. Real consumption growth of 10 per cent in 1993 may turn to a contraction of some seven per cent.

That means the Turks, whose wages are to be cut by 15 per cent in real terms under the austerity plan, will spend less.

Official projections obtained by Reuters show year-on-year wholesale price inflation, which eased to 129 per cent last month from an all-time high of 139 per cent in May, would stand at 110 per cent at the end of 1994.

NAM says debt reduction urgent for least-developed nations

JAKARTA (AFP) — A ministerial conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) said Monday that sizeable reductions are the only solution to the debt problems of the least developed countries.

"The meeting endorsed the need for substantial debt reduction, as opposed to repeated debt reschedulings, as the most appropriate approach to resolution of the debt crisis of developing countries," a report signed by the chairman of the conference on debt and development said.

As massively indebted countries were obliged to give priority to servicing external debt, they have been forced to reduce essential public investment, leading to a sharp increase in poverty and a decline in basic social indicators, conference chairman Saleh Alif said.

"Despite repeated attempts at debt rescheduling, and some debt relief, it is clear that the remaining debt stock of poor developing countries remains so high that the possibility of it being settled in full is virtually nil," he added.

The meeting also called on NAM members to engage creditor countries in international discussions that could lead to the "adoption of a common set of principles for future debt negotiations."

Sources said that the meeting also sought to change the institutional arrangement for country debt reorganisation from the current creditor-managed system to one jointly managed by creditors and debtors.

The first high-level meeting on the external debt of developing countries, was attended by ministers and officials from 25 debt-distressed least-developed countries, mostly African, and five developing countries.

German central bank appeals for wage restraint

FRANKFURT (AFP) — The Bundesbank has called for wage restraint in coming years warning that big wage rises could revive inflation and impede efforts to reduce unemployment.

In its monthly report for August, the German central bank said soaring wage costs in 1991 and 1992 were one of the main reasons along with the slowdown in external demand for the recession into which Germany was plunged in 1993.

In the three years from beginning 1990 to end 1992, wage costs in western Germany increased by 11 per cent, as much as the increase in the entire seven-year period from 1982 through 1989, the bank said.

However the Bundesbank said more moderate wage agreements in 1993 and 1994 had created favourable conditions for renewed economic growth.

While small wage rises might slow consumption in the short term, in the longer term they lead to growth and creation of jobs, the bank said.

In a study on wage evolution in western Germany

from 1985 to 1993, the Bundesbank said wages which are negotiated branch by branch, had risen on average by 4.1 per cent a year, that is by 38 per cent for the eight years under consideration.

But when the reduction in working hours from 39 hours a week to 37-hours 45-minutes, was taken into account, the rises reached 46 per cent or 4.8 per cent a year, the report said.

The period under review comprised three phases: A period of moderate wage increases in the latter years of the last decade (4.0 per cent a year on the basis of hourly rates), a period from 1990 to end 1992 when wages shot up in the boom which followed German reunification and then a return to moderation in 1993 and 1994 as a result of recession and unemployment with a 4.0 per cent rise in 1993 and 1.5 per cent so far in 1994.

The bank said the moderation at the end of the 1980s had helped to "make companies more profitable" and led to "an acceleration in investments." The number of people with jobs rose by 1.2 million while the unemployment

rate fell from 8.0 per cent in 1985 to 7.0 per cent in 1989.

Overall, household revenue went up by 3.0 per cent a year in real terms largely thanks to a minimal inflation of 1.0 per cent achieved by "moderation on the wages front," the bank said.

The change of strategy after reunification proved "that much more serious" because the number of people looking for jobs increased while the amount of available capital declined because of the dismal state of east German industry.

The slowdown in the world economy, improved competitiveness of foreign products on the German market, changes in currency parities and added wage costs had eaten into the profits of German companies and plunged the country into recession, the Bundesbank said.

In 1993, the bank said workers and employers made job creation their top priority. They agreed to greater flexibility in working hours and wages within the various branches. As a result wage

had enabled employers to hire long-time unemployed people at lower than standard rates.

The Bundesbank said that in Germany, wage accords in one branch tended to set the tone for negotiations in other branches "detracting" from their independence and freedom to set their own wage targets.

The Bundesbank acknowledged that there were discrepancies between various industrial sectors. For instance in the crisis-hit mining sector wages had increased by only 3.8 per cent a year from 1985 to 1993 while those of the building industry had risen 5.5 per cent a year.

In the former East Germany, the bank said massive wage rises from mid-1990 had hampered the transition from a centralised to a free market economy.

In a special report on wage evolution in eastern Germany from 1990 to 1994, the Bundesbank said wage accords negotiated in 1994 had failed to take sufficient account of the economic climate, contrary to those signed in western Germany.

The bank said wage increases in 1994 had been smaller than in previous years though without any "significant" narrowing of the gap between wage progression and productivity.

The bank said excessive wage-rises had prevented the creation of jobs in the service sector where women make up a large portion of the workforce. Such new jobs could have offset the loss of jobs shed by industries in the process of restructuring, the report said.

Unions in the east had concentrated on raising wages to the level of those in the west with scant regard to the differences in productivity between east and west, the report said.

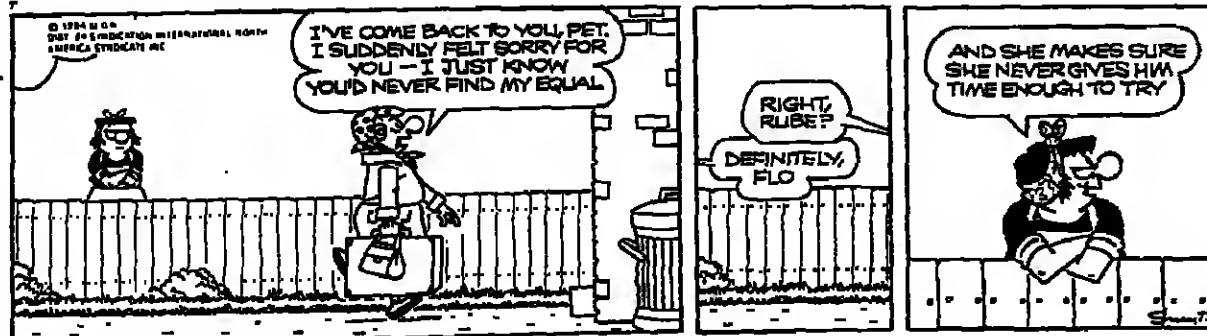
At the end of 1990, wages in the east were half those in the west. By end 1993, they were 80 per cent of western earnings excluding Christmas and holiday bonuses and 13th months paid in the west but not in the east.

But the bank said the real gap between earnings was less because rents in the east were 30 per cent cheaper and the cost of living was six per cent less than in the west.

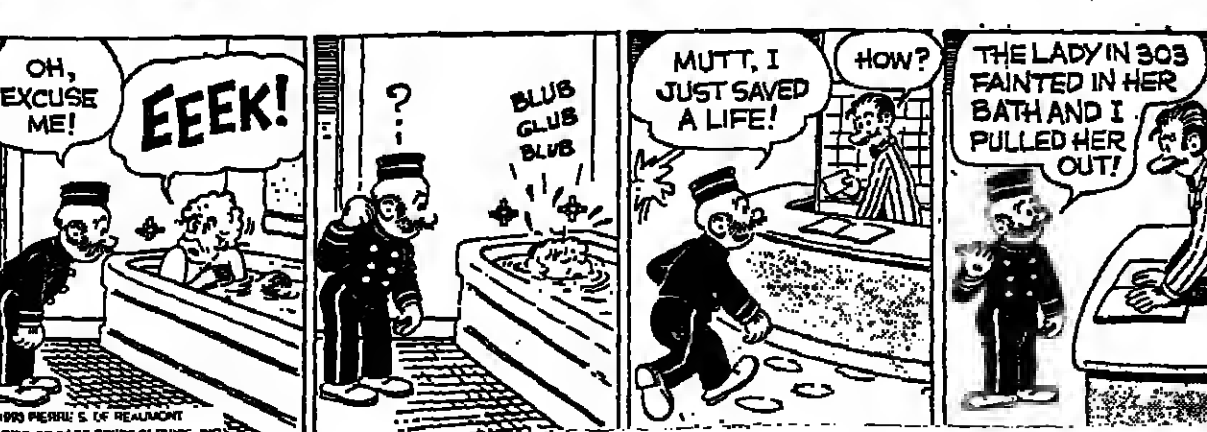
Peanuts



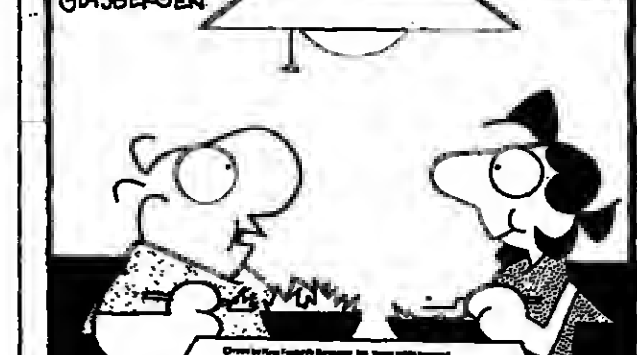
Andy Capp



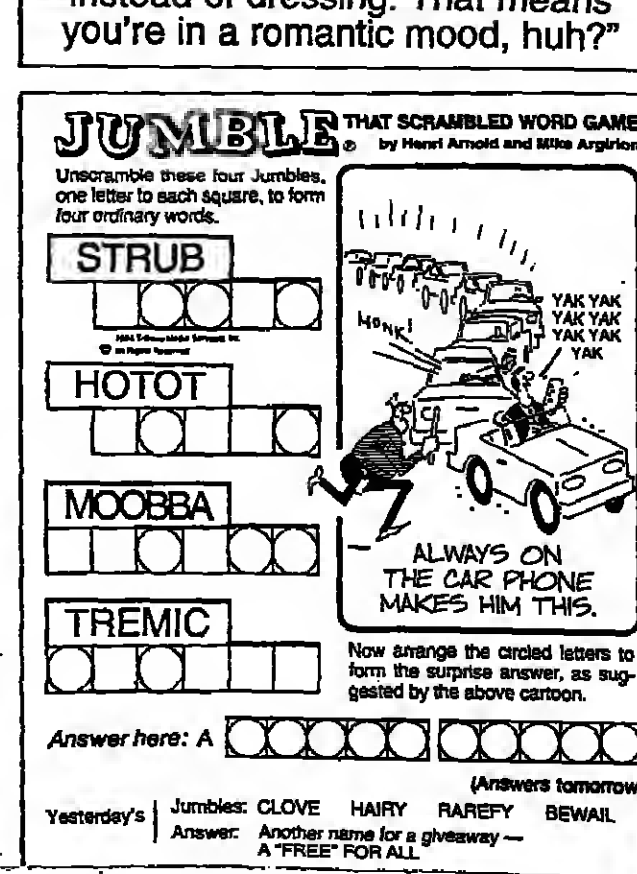
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Horoscope not received

THE Daily Crossword by Melvin Karmody

ACROSS

- 1 Dramatic personae
- 3 Seine city
- 10 Covered
- 14 Medicinal plant
- 15 Terminal
- 16 Looker
- 17 Tree trunk
- 18 Sheer
- 19 Tub name
- 20 Inosinosis
- 22 Awns
- 24 Get up at 11 a.m., e.g.
- 26 Calendar abbr.
- 28 Left at all
- 30 Lined up
- 33 Got down
- 35 Label
- 38 Reel
- 39 Life after work
- 42 Boleaguerment
- 43 Flying profits
- 44 Home to the
- 45 Vests
- 46 Work force
- 48 Williams of
- 49 "Happy Days"
- 50 Timetable letters
- 51 Moves again
- 52 — edition
- 55 "Mourning Becomes"
- 59 Jet
- 60 Projection
- 62 American-gener
- 63 Blue dye
- 64 Like snakes' teeth
- 65 Pro —
- 66 "The Varnish"
- 67 "The jawbone of"
- 68 Angle

DOWN

- 1 Vardoes
- 2 Much
- 3 Some songs
- 4 Abounds
- 5 Across
- 6 Goodies
- 7 Civil War battle
- 8 Topsy-turvy
- 8 Paragons
- 9 Saville part
- 10 Greenhouses
- 11 Ship — (nursy)
- 12 Ferret or blast
- 13 Theater box
- 21 Rubber tree
- 22 Europe's "boot"
- 25 Extravagance
- 26 Planet
- 27 Derived from oil
- 28 Sappho
- 31 City on the
- 32 Midson
- 33 Election
- 34 Flower
- 37 Rule
- 38 The knot
- 39 again
- 40 Savings
- 41 Streetcars
- 46 Sea near Greece
- 47 Born
- 50 Times of the scale
- 51 Neckwear
- 52 False god
- 53 Ambrose
- 54 "The best schemes"
- 56 Garmes native
- 57 Soaks Rex
- 58 Turned
- 61 Genetic material

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

- 1 DREAMS
- 3 SEINE
- 10 COVERED
- 14 MEDICINAL
- 15 TERMINAL
- 16 LOOKER
- 17 TRUNK
- 18 SHEER
- 19 TUB
- 20 INOSINOSIS
- 22 AWNS
- 24 GET UP AT 11 A.M.
- 26 CALENDAR
- 28 LEFT AT ALL
- 30 LINED UP
- 33 GOT DOWN
- 35 LABEL
- 38 REEL
- 39 LIFE AFTER WORK
- 42 BOLEAGUERMENT
- 43 FLYING PROFITS
- 44 HOME TO THE
- 45 VESTS
- 46 WORK FORCE
- 48 WILLIAMS OF
- 49 "HAPPY DAYS"
- 50 TIMETABLE
- 51 MOVES AGAIN
- 52 — EDITION
- 55 "MOURNING BECOMES"
- 59 JET
- 60 PROJECTION
- 62 AMERICAN-GENER
- 63 BLUE DYE
- 64 LIKE SNAKES' TEETH
- 65 PRO —
- 66 "THE VARNISH"
- 67 "THE JAWBONE OF"
- 68 ANGLE

DOWN

- 1 VARDOS
- 2 MUCH
- 3 SOME SONGS
- 4 ABOUNDS
- 5 ACROSS
- 6 GOODIES
- 7 CIVIL WAR BATTLE
- 8 TOPSY-TURVY
- 8 PARAGONS
- 9 SAVILLE PART
- 10 GREENHOUSES
- 11 SHIP — (NURSERY)
- 12 FERRET OR BLAST
- 13 THEATRE BOX
- 21 RUBBER TREE
- 22 EUROPE'S "BOOT"
- 25 EXTRAVAGANCE
- 26 PLANET
- 27 DERIVED FROM OIL
- 28 SAPPHO
- 31 CITY ON THE
- 32 MIDSON
- 33 ELECTION
- 34 FLOWER
- 37 RULE
- 38 THE KNOT
- 39 AGAIN
- 40 SAVINGS
- 41 STREETCARS
- 46 SEA NEAR GREECE
- 47 BORN
- 50 TIMES OF THE SCALE
- 51 NECKWEAR
- 52 FALSE GOD
- 53 AMBROSE
- 54 "THE BEST SCHEMES"
- 56 GARMES NATIVE
- 57 SOAKS REX
- 58 TURNED
- 61 GENETIC MATERIAL

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
In co-operation with
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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York (Close)	Tokyo (Close)
Sterling Pound	1.5465	1.5463
Deutsche Mark	1.5512	1.5536
Swiss Franc	1.3026	1.3055
French Franc	5.3225	5.3270
Japanese Yen	100.17	100.17
European Currency Unit	1.2248	1.2248

European Currency Unit Rates

Currency	1 MYH	3 MYH	6 MYH	12 MYH
U.S. Dollar	4.37	4.68	5.06	5.62
Sterling Pound	5.00	5.43	5.81	6.56
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.93
Swiss Franc	4.00	4.18	4.31	4.50
French Franc	5.31	5.50	5.81	6.06
Japanese Yen	1.93	2.06	2.12	2.43
European Currency Unit	5.87	5.93	6.25	6.75

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6940	0.6960
Sterling Pound	1.0720	1.0774
Deutsche Mark	0.4465	0.4487
Swiss Franc	0.5316	0.5343
French Franc	0.1301	0.1308
Japanese Yen	0.0023	0.0025
Dutch Guilder	0.3972	0.3992
Swedish Krona	0.0458	0.0464
Italian Lira	0.0000	0.0000
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.5250	1.5370
Lebanese Lira	0.000335	0.001875
Saudi Riyal	0.1347	0.1360
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3100	2.3400
Qatari Riyal	0.1894	0.1907
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2250
Omani Riyal	1.7650	1.8000
UAE Dirham	0.1884	0.1893
Greek Drachma	0.02685	0.03085
Cypriot Pound	1.3880	1.4975

Japan losing Arab Gulf electronics market to other Asian countries

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) — Japan is losing its grip of the lucrative Gulf electronics market to its Asian neighbours due to a surge in the yen and export blitzes by other producers, official figures have showed.

After years of domination, Japan's share has started to shrink in some electronics products while in others it was even overtaken by some Asian producers that are considered newcomers to the oil-rich market.

China, whose exports to the region were negligible in the mid-1980s, is now the dominant force in the radio-cassette market in Dubai, the Middle East's main commercial centre and a major re-exporter to local and foreign markets.

Figures by the state-run Dubai statistics department showed total radio imports increased by six per cent to 9.5 million sets in 1993 from 8.9 million sets in 1992 and their value grew to around 632 million dirhams (\$172.2 million) from 620 million dirhams (\$169 million).

China, which has one of the fastest-growing economies, accounted for 78 per cent, exporting 7.8 million sets in 1993 compared with seven million in 1992, according to the figures, published in the UAE daily Al Khaleej.

Despite the increase in quantity, their value dropped to 300 million dirhams (\$81.7 million) from 318 million dirhams (\$86.6 million) due to a fall in prices caused by strong competition in the regional market.

The report showed Japan's share fell to 2.8 per cent from 5.7 per cent, with radio exports plunging to 271,000 sets from 516,000 sets.

Singapore's share also fell to 456,000 sets from 474,000 sets while South Korea boosted exports to 324,000

from 290,000 sets.

Although Japan still dominated the video cassette market, its share dived to 70 per cent in 1993 from 88 per cent in 1992. The drop occurred despite a 15 per cent growth in Dubai's video imports to 591,000 sets from 510,000.

Japan exported 412,000 sets in 1993 compared with 450,000 sets in 1992, the value falling to 313 million dirhams (\$85.2 million) from around 334 million dirhams (\$91 million).

The decline benefited other Asian producers, with South Korea's share surging to 17.5 per cent from eight per cent and exports more than doubling to 103,000 sets from 41,500 sets, the report showed.

Malaysia's share jumped to 10 per cent from 3.5 per cent and the exported sets to 60,000 from around 17,900. It also emerged as the biggest exporter of television sets, reaching 244,000 in 1993, nearly 32 per cent of the total.

South Korea, now one of the main economic partners of the Gulf countries, replaced Japan as the second biggest TV exporter, with its share rising to 26 per cent from 22 per cent and exported units to 203,000 from 150,000.

"Japan is losing its share in the Gulf market because of the sharp rise in the yen against the U.S. dollar, to which regional currencies are pegged," a local dealer said.

"Another reason is that several Asian countries are engaged in promotion drives, which include opening offices and finding more agents. Japan seems not interested in such drives as it has an old base here."

The yen rise was underscored in the big gap in prices of products from Japan and its Asian neighbours.

The figures showed the average price of a Malaysian television set stood at 900 dirhams (\$245.2) and a South Korean at 745 dirhams (\$202.9). A Japanese television fetched 1,666 dirhams (\$453.9). The gap also occurred in the sale of video and radio cassettes.

Despite the decline, Japan has remained the top econo-

mic partner of the UAE and other Gulf nations, with a two-way trade of nearly \$34 billion in 1993. But the growth in such an exchange has remained far lower than that in trade between the Gulf and other Asian countries, mainly China.

Al Khaleej said the electronics market in Dubai, a member of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), had sharply grown in recent years due to a buying spree by tourists from Russia and other previous communist countries.

About 300,000 of those tourists visited Dubai in 1993 and their electronics purchases topped \$800 million, more than half Dubai's total electronics imports during that year.

Silver price continues to drop

LONDON (R) — Silver fell to its lowest level since late January at 505.00 cents per ounce at Monday's official fixing, continuing its plunge in New York on Friday after news that U.S. inflation was slower than expected.

On Friday silver was fixed at 519.25 cents in London, while at the beginning of this month it was hovering around 533 cents.

Pressure was building in the market after prices fell

through 520 cents last week, one bullion dealer said. But he added: "It absorbed some selling this morning and found buying to support it at 504 cents."

Silver prices tumbled 13.30 cents to 507 cents on the New York Comex market's September contract on Friday. They followed the neighbouring gold futures trading pit down after July U.S. consumer price index

data showed only a 0.3 per cent increase, near the bottom of economists' forecasts.

"That means inflation was no longer the market's main concern," one dealer said, noting the market was focusing on the prospect of an interest rate rise after Tuesday's meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee of the U.S. central bank.

"But all the bad news is in the market (price)," he added.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar
1.3802/12	0.7528/38
1.5528/38	1.7444/54
1.7444/54	1.3037/47
1.3037/47	32.01/05
32.01/05	5.3287/37
5.3287/37	1585.57/0
1585.57/0	100.16/26
100.16/26	7.7604/04
7.7604/04	6.8300/50
6.8300/50	6.1510/60
6.1510/60	\$1.5460/70
\$1.5460/70	\$376.35/376.75

Brazil crop report brings coffee prices back to boil

LONDON (R) — Coffee prices steamed ahead Monday after a long-awaited report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) forecast a sharply lower Brazilian crop in 1995/96.

On the London Commodity Exchange, coffee for November delivery was up \$152 to \$3,425 a tonne at midday. It is still 16 per cent off an 8 1/2 year high reached in early July after two severe frosts in Brazil, the world's biggest producer.

Consumers, already hit by retail price hikes following a tightening of world coffee supplies prior to the Brazilian frosts, will probably have to dig deeper into their pockets as the effects of the latest rises filter into the shops.

The USDA, which published its report after the markets had closed Friday, said Brazil's 1995/96 crop would be between 17 million and 20 million 60-kilogramme bags, a drop of around 30 per cent from the 26 million predicted for this season's crop.

"Today's price gains reflect the fact that the USDA, whose views are regarded as authoritative, thinks the frost damage to the Brazilian crop really is bad," said one trader.

"But their assessment is not the last word on the subject. It will be impossible to know accurately what is happening until after the trees start flowering next month," he added.

Traders said prices could make further advances if the New York futures market reacts bullishly to the USDA report.

Brazil recently forecast a 1995/96 crop of 15 million bags, down from a pre-frost estimate of 26 million. On Friday the government said it contested the USDA figure, adding the frost damage was more extensive than the department believed.

A statement signed by trade policy secretary Frederico Robelinho and the head of the National Coffee Department Claus de Freitas said the 1995/96 harvest would be between 15 million and 17 million bags. It added the 1994/95 harvest would reach at most 22 million bags.

The USDA report is widely regarded as the most accurate and objective assessment of the frost damage so far. The department has a reputation for giving rather conservative estimates but its Brazilian crop forecast fell below most trade expectations.

Responding to the report, London-based broker GNI said in its daily market comment: "We feel that the time is now right to close out short (positions) and another rally is on the cards."

The freak cold snap damaged Brazil's extensive coffee crop in late June and early July, igniting a meteoric rise in world prices. Brazil accounts for about a quarter of global coffee output and is also the biggest exporter of the commodity.

A team sent by the USDA spent 21 days and travelled 6,000 kilometres surveying the major coffee areas. Its 1995/96 projection represents potential production given good management and normal weather during the rest of the growing season.

Without favourable weather to aid growth, Brazil's coffee crop could see further damage, a USDA analyst said.

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Manchester United win Charity Shield

LONDON (R) — A stunning overhead goal from Paul Ince and another Wembley penalty from Eric Cantona earned English double winners Manchester United a 2-0 victory over Blackburn Rovers in Sunday's Charity Shield.

Injury-weakened Blackburn, appearing in the Wembley pre-season opener as league runners-up, held United to a single goal from a first-half penalty until nine minutes from time.

Midfielder Ince doubled United's winning margin with a spectacular bicycle kick in front of goal after Cantona headed a ball clear from a corner back into the box.

The French international, who will miss the start of the new season after receiving a three-match ban this week for a sending-off last weekend, put the champions ahead in the 23rd minute.

Defender Colin Hendry was adjudged to have pulled down Ince in the box and the self-assured Cantona casually stroked home another Wembley penalty.

In May, he became the first player to score two penalties in an F.A. cup final in the destruction of Chelsea.

Controversial new instructions to referees to clamp down on tackling from behind and dissent were evident, with World Cup referee Philip Don booking seven players in a reasonably well-tempered encounter.

Blackburn clearly missed the most expensive strikeforce in English football as they struggled to create goal-scoring chances.

England striker Alan Shearer is recovering from food poisoning and his new partner, five million-pound (\$7.74 million) Norwich recruit Chris Sutton has an ankle injury.

In a rare outburst, Blackburn Manager Kenny Dalglish attacked controversial new refereeing instructions following the seven bookings.

The clampdown highlighted orders from FIFA, the game's governing body, for referees to get tough on foul play.

It led to a rush of yellow cards and 10 dismissals on Saturday's opening day of the football league season and to a lashing from the normally reticent Dalglish.

"If there are going to be seven or eight bookings in a match I don't think anyone's



Manchester United's midfielder star Paul Ince scores the second goal for his team 2-0 a pre-season friendly match (AFP photo)

going to enjoy it," said Dalglish, whose side lost 2-0 to Manchester United.

"I don't think the bookings reflected the game.

"To me, the game was like a first-phase World Cup game. Everytime there was a free kick, there seemed to be a yellow card. You cannot take the commonsense out of refereeing. If you do... then I don't think anyone's got a chance."

FIFA have instructed

National Football Association to follow their lead in the World Cup where referees were much harsher on penalising fouls and dissent.

English World Cup referee Philip Don Booked Blackburn's Tim Sherwood, Graeme Le Saux, Colin Hendry and Jason Wilcox, and United players Ryan Giggs, Lee Sharpe and Steve Bruce on Sunday.

But Manchester United Manager Alex Ferguson ap-

plauded the new disciplinary attitude.

"This is what should happen. People paid £35 (\$54) to watch the Charity Shield and need to be entertained," he said.

"The referee had a difficult job today because everybody is watching to see how it pans out. I thought he got it right and I have absolutely no complaints. You have to give players in an attacking position a chance."

Schumacher back on course for title

BUDAPEST (R) — Michael Schumacher's dominant victory in Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix put him and the Benetton team back on course for one of the most controversial Formula One title triumphs in the history of the championship.

By increasing his lead over Briton Damon Hill, of Williams, in the drivers' title race to 31 points, the 25-year-old German regained the psychological advantage against his nearest rival.

He also created a big enough cushion to survive the two-race ban he faces if he loses his appeal in Paris on Aug. 30 for ignoring the black flag at Silverstone in last month's British Grand Prix.

But Schumacher and his Benetton team know that even if they go on and claim their first championships — Schumacher is on course to be the youngest champion in Formula One history — they may have to work even harder to clear their names after a month of allegations about cheating.

The black flag chaos at Silverstone, which resulted in the race steward being suspended for a year as well as a \$500,000 fine for Benetton, was followed by a statement by the sport's ruling body FIA that Benetton's car management software for the San Marino Grand Prix earlier this year had included an illegal driver aid known as "launch control."

The FIA was unable to prove it had been used by Benetton and the team declared their innocence, claiming the computerised aid had been left in a software menu since the previous year but had not been used this season.

Several other teams have revealed since that they also have left some of last year's now-banned computerised "driver aids" in their systems, but not used them this year. All the teams appear to have accepted Benetton's version of these events.

But Benetton's rival teams have found it more difficult to accept that the Anglo-



German driver Michael Schumacher raises a clenched fist during the awarding ceremony after winning the Hungarian F1 Grand Prix. British driver Damon Hill (Williams-Renault) placed second and Dutch driver Jos Verstappen (Benetton-Ford) placed third (AFP photo)

Italian team were not seeking to gain an advantage by re-gaining a filter from their refuelling system prior to the Hungarian Grand Prix, an irregular act which Benetton claimed they did only after receiving permission from the FIA.

The claims and counter-claims from the FIA and Benetton developed into a major dispute during the course of the Hungarian Grand Prix and it is to Schumacher's enormous credit that he was able to shut this from his mind and concentrate with single-minded success on winning the race.

The sheer joy on Schu-

macher's face on Sunday night radiated his relief at gaining his seventh win in the first 10 of this year's scheduled 16 races and he admitted it was "not the most satisfying, but the most important" victory of his career for obvious reasons.

Hill was second and Schumacher's Benetton team mate Dutchman Jos Verstappen, who was slightly burned in the refuelling fireball at the German Grand Prix two weeks earlier, gained his first podium finish by taking third place.

While they celebrated, Benetton's Managing Director Flavio Briatore said he and

his team's owner Luciano Briatore were considering the possibility of taking legal action against Inter Technique, the French company which makes and supplies the refuelling rigs used in F1, for the damage caused to Benetton's image worldwide last week.

Briatore said Benetton believed the Hockenheim fire was not caused by the removal of the filter from their refuelling rig — as claimed by Inter Technique and the FIA and reported worldwide — but by faulty parts supplied by Inter Technique.

"I believe Inter Technique was quick to rush to conclusions before making a serious check and has damaged the name of a worldwide company, Benetton, in the worldwide press," he said.

Briatore said he would now wait for FIA's final report into the fire and an independent report commissioned by Benetton. The independent company's preliminary report, leaked by Benetton at the weekend, severely criticised the integrity of the equipment supplied by Inter Technique to all the teams.

In an unexpected move, Inter Technique supplied new parts for the much-criticised nozzles of the refuelling equipment at the Hungarian Grand Prix on Friday evening, a fact which Benetton claim proved that the previous parts were faulty.

The French company and FIA did not make any official comment on the issue during the weekend, leaving Benetton to celebrate a convincing win on Sunday night which puts them in good spirits for the next race, the Belgian Grand Prix at Spa-Francorchamps on Aug. 28.

It is a fact that Schumacher is relishing. "It is the nearest to my family home, it is the circuit where I made my debut in 1991 and where I won my first race in 1992. We will be looking forward to it," he said.

If events conspire against him two days later, however, it could be his last race of the season.

Chang beats Edberg in ATP championship

MASON, Ohio (R) — American Michael Chang beat an embarrassed Stefan Edberg 6-2 7-6 on Sunday to win the \$1.72 million ATP championship for the second year in a row.

Chang, the fourth seed and ranked seventh in the world, had few challenges from the second-seeded, fourth-ranked Swede in a repeat match-up of last year's final. Edberg did not look like a player who was once the best in the world.

Edberg picked up his game a bit in the second set, but the first set was a complete disaster. He lost the first 11 points of the match and in the blink of an eye was down two service breaks at 3-0.

"You almost feel embarrassed, at least I do," said Edberg, who raised his arms high into the air to a cheering crowd when he finally won the 12th point.

"It's a nightmare. It took me 11 points to get a point. Every shot I was mistiming or he hit a winner. I realised it was 3-0 in 10 minutes and you go, wow, what's going on here?"

Chang, who earned \$245,000 for the win, could understand how Edberg was feeling.

"You have a few matches where you do feel that way," Chang said. "I've definitely been on court feeling very embarrassed. I once played an exhibition with Johan Kriek and I was playing so

badly the people just walked out. It was humiliating."

Last year, Edberg pushed Chang to three sets in the final.

Navratilova to skip U.S. Open

LOS ANGELES (R) — Martina Navratilova announced on Sunday that she will not compete in the U.S. Open, which begins August 29 in Flushing Meadow, New York.

Navratilova, who has won four U.S. Open singles titles in her career, said that she does not feel fit enough for the grueling two week Grand Slam event.

"My 37-year-old body is telling me to play on indoor surfaces, and I think it's time to listen," Navratilova said in a statement issued by her publicist.

TENNIS ROUNDUP

"I also need some time at home to rest and get in shape," Navratilova continued. "I've only been home for two days since May, and I want to spend some time preparing physically and mentally for the four or five other tournaments I will play before I retire from singles at the end of the year."

The decision means that Navratilova's final career Grand Slam match was her

loss in the Wimbledon final to Conchita Martinez of Spain last month.

Navratilova, who was upset by American Grossman in the third round of the Virginia Slims of Los Angeles, is scheduled to play in five more indoor tournaments: Tokyo, Zurich, Filderstadt, Germany, Oakland, California and the year-end championships in New York.

Frazier beats Grossman in final

MANHATTAN BEACH, California (R) — Tenth seed Amy Frazier won her third career singles title when she whipped 13th-seeded fellow

American Ann Grossman 6-1 6-3 on Sunday in a battle of surprise finalists at the \$400,000 Virginia Slims of Los Angeles.

Frazier had shocked top seed and recently-crowned Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez of Spain in the quarter-finals, while Grossman had upset second seed and defending champion Martina Navratilova in the third round of the 56-player, hard court tournament.

Frazier, who hit 23 winners compared to just six from Grossman, called the win a stepping-stone for her as she points towards the U.S. Open beginning August 29.

Thompson wins 100 metres with broken arm

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (R) — World record holder Jenny Thompson, swimming with a broken arm held together with a titanium plate and seven screws, won the 100-metre freestyle on Sunday at the U.S. National Swimming Championships.

Thompson, 21, won in 55.50 seconds, capping a re-

markable comeback since she broke her left arm in a freak water slide accident during a college fraternity party at Stanford University in May.

Thompson underwent surgery June 3. She had more than 100 stitches and a plate and seven screws put in her arm, and has a 15 cm scar on her forearm. After missing 10

days of practice, she returned to a rigorous regimen of physical therapy and two-a-day pool workouts.

"The doctors told me before the surgery I always had next year and I told them I didn't, that I wanted this year," said Thompson.

"This win means more to me than breaking the world record. I felt myself digging in at 75 metres and knew I had the race won."

"I guess I have a bionic arm now," Thompson said. "The arm is still broken, but it's held together pretty well. It gets tight, but now the pain is muscular, not the bone."

Two years ago, Thompson was the first U.S. woman in 59 years to break the world record in the 100-metre freestyle in 54.48. Her record still

stands.

In the same race, Angel Martino and Nicole Haislett, both members of the 1992 Olympic team, tied for second in 55.84 and will have a swim-off to determine the second individual qualifier for Rome. The next four finishers qualified for the 400-metre freestyle relay.

In other races, Seth van Nierden, 26, tied Olympian Nelson Diebel's U.S. record by winning the 100-metre breaststroke in 1:01.40, the world's fastest time this year, Allison Wagner, 17, won the 400-metre individual medley in 4:40.27 and Chad Carvin won the 200-metre freestyle in 1:49.19.

The seven-day competition is the selection meeting for the world championships

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FIND THE SETTING TRICK

Both vulnerable. West deals.
NORTH
♠ 10 8
♥ Q J
♦ Q 3
♣ K J 7 5 2
WEST
♠ Q 9 7 4
♥ K 4 4
♦ 10 7
♣ Q 9 6
EAST
♠ 2 2
♥ 5 3
♦ A J 9 8 5 4
♣ A 10
SOUTH
♠ A K 8 3
♥ A 10 9 8 7 2
♦ 2
♣ 4 3

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 1♠ 3♥ Dbl
Pass 3NT Pass 4♥
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠
Your mission: If you choose to accept it, dear reader, is to decide what four tricks declarer lost at the contract of four hearts, taking into consideration that declarer ruffed two spades in dummy. Since you will need more than 10 seconds, this column will not disintegrate.

South's double of three diamonds was negative, i.e., for takeout, to make sure that a 4-4 spade fit would

not be missed. South's decision to run from three no trump was wise — a diamond lead would have left North with no play.

East captured the queen of diamonds with the ace and returned the eight, declarer discarding a club as the king won. The ace and king of spades were cashed and a spade was ruffed with a trump honor.

The only fast return to the South hand was with a diamond ruff and to prevent an overruff declarer ruffed with the ace. After ruffing a spade with dummy's remaining trump honor, the king of clubs was led to East's ace and declarer had to ruff the diamond return high as West discarded a club.

When the ten of trumps was led, West shot up with the king and returned another spade. East put the five of trumps to good work, forcing declarer to overruff with the eight. Declarer's last two cards were the 5 of hearts, while West held 6 4. The six of trumps had been promoted to the setting trick.

At the other table play started the same way. However, declarer elected to discard a spade on the diamond and then finess the jack of clubs to emerge with 10 tricks.

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Bubka factor threatens Euro champs

HELSINKI (AFP) — Europe's premier athletics showpiece ended at the weekend short on shocks, drama, records — and Sergey Bubka.

The Bubka factor may only have caused a few ripples last week, but his absence could turn into a tidal wave threatening the very future of the European championships as a major event.

The Ukrainian world record pole-vaulter left the Helsinki limelight to a clutch of world-class athletes led by Britain's world and Olympic champion sprinter Linford Christie.

Officially, he wanted to spend some time with his family. Unofficially, most athletes pundits smell the influence of money — or rather, the lack of it.

Bubka can command up to 50,000 pounds to make a Grand Prix meeting appearance, with bonuses for the 35 world records he has posted so far during a glittering career.

The only reward on offer at the European championships came in the shape of a medal and a title.

Christie, along with fellow Britons Colin Jackson and Sally Gunnell, Germany's Heike Drechsler, France's Marie-José Peres, Russian Irina Privalova and Czech Jan Zeleny — as well as their agents and sponsors — all accepted those terms.

But, in a sporting world increasingly dominated by wads of dollars, they may not be keen to repeat the experience in four years.

To make matters worse, Christie and co. were barely challenged on their way to gold. The lack of competition, as Privalova suggested after her sprint double, devalued the achievement.

The Russian, hardly cartwheeling with joy after emulating Katrin Krabbe's feat four years ago, said: "It was too easy. You can't run fast without competition."

Only Jackson, Britain's 110m hurdler star, and already the world and European record holder, managed to push himself to the limit, producing two championships bests on the way to his winning final.

Christie did not need to go under ten seconds for gold, Drechsler needed just one



Spaniard Martin Fiz raises his arms as he crosses the finish line of the men's Marathon at the 16th European Athletic Championships in Helsinki, clocking a new championship record time of 3:10:30 hours. Advancing to the finish in the background is compatriot Diego Garcia, who won the silver medal in 2:16:46 hrs, ahead of another Spaniard, Alberto Juzjedo (AFP photo)

jump to end her event, while 400m runner Peres and hurdler Gunnell both won in a first-gear canter.

World and Olympic javelin champion Zeleny, like Jackson, did produce a stir — by losing.

But even that drama was watered down, since he faced quality opposition in the shape of Britain's gold medal winner Steve Backley, the former world record holder and defending champion, and 1987 world champion Seppo Riihila of Finland.

The only other shock was self-inflicted, when decathlete Eduard Hamalainen of Belarus, the world number two behind American Dan O'Brien and comfortably on the way to the title, hit his first hurdle in his favourite

110m discipline and hobbled out of Helsinki.

To keep the stars, the European Athletics Association may have to follow the International Amateur Athletics Federation's lead at the World Championships.

At Stuttgart, it took a 20,000-pound Mercedes for event winners to convince the best to take part (some, like Algerian Noureddine Morceli, who eventually ran, and Kenyan Yohes Ondieki, who didn't, were less than impressed with the idea of chassis-chasing).

IAAF president Primo Nebiolo has already said there will be no cash hand-outs at the next world finals at Gothenburg in Sweden next year — but the trend is clear, says today, appear-

ance fees and cash prizes tomorrow.

Without similar prizes, the European championships are doomed to second-class status, reduced to the role of a talent feed for nearly-men and young hopefuls trying to make it to the big time of Olympics, World Championships and personal accounts.

The two major discoveries this time were Geir Moen, Norway's new sprinting find, and Britain's Du'sine Ladejo, the 400m individual and relay champion.

Moen, dubbed the fastest white man on earth, won the 200m in a personal best of 20.30 after following Christie home in the 100, while Ladejo, 23, ended fellow Englishman Roger Black's dream of a third Euro gold in a row before making his peace with him in the winning relay.

On the down side, Helsinki was rife with drugs rumour, emerged during the event.

British sprinter Solomon Waiso was withdrawn on the first day of the event after testing for ephedrine and Bulgarian triple jumper Sofia Bozhanova was sent home for using amphetamines.

But at least the championships provided "real athletics" rather than a menu of artificially-paced record attempts that have become so familiar on the Grand Prix circuit.

Even without Bubka, the pole vault — won by Russian Radion Gataullin for the second time in a row with a six-metre clearance — proved gripping.

There was Bulgarian Yordanka Donkova's despair in the women's 100m hurdles, when she failed to hear a semi-final false start and blasted down the whole course before realising her blunder, two hours later in the final, those wasted ounces of energy doomed her to a disappointing bronze.

Spain's clean-sweep of the marathon proved mesmerising but the most moving moment of the games came in the men's 3,000m steeplechase, when Alessandro Lambroschini won gold — thanks to compatriot Francesco Panetta's helping hand.

Dream Team II takes gold

TORONTO (AFP) — A gold medal was not enough for Dream Team II at the World Basketball Championships. They had to win big as well.

Mission accomplished, and then some.

The U.S. team of National Basketball Association stars routed Russia 137-91 here Sunday to win the world title and match the gold-medal effort of the original 1992 Olympic Dream Team.

"We just turned it up a notch from the time we got out of bed," said forward Dominique Wilkins, who led the U.S. team with 20 points. "We didn't want to just win the gold medal. We wanted to win convincingly, to show everyone we had been cruising out there."

Shaquille O'Neal added 18 points and 10 rebounds while Alonzo Mourning had 15 points and Shawn Kemp scored 14 for the U.S. squad, which had eight double-figure scorers. They won their nation's third world title, matching the record set by the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

"It's a great feeling, a very special moment and a stepping stone in my career," Wilkins said.

Derrick Coleman opened with a 3-point shot and a 3-point play and when Joe Dumars followed with another 3-point, the rout was on.

"It was all a test," said Coleman, who finished with 13 points. "The U.S. has won. That's all that matters." Dream Team II slam dunked and 3-pointed their way to a 30-12 lead after only 6:02. The U.S. squad made 11 of their first 12 shots, pulled ahead 73-40 at half-time and stretched their margin throughout the second half to complete an 8-0 run through the event.

It was tough to get motivation earlier on, but a championship game is great motivation," U.S. guard Kevin Johnson said. "When the game finally meant something, we came through."

Coleman and Kemp brought an intensity the U.S. team lacked in most earlier games. "We wanted to come out with fire and energy and attitude," Kemp said. "We wanted to blow them away. Me and Derrick demanded the ball inside. We had an emotional lineup in there, some guys who were hungry."

The game quickly became a showcase for the individual skills of NBA players, with Mark Price and Reggie Miller sinking long-range shots while Kemp and O'Neal jam-



Derrick Coleman of the United States makes a layup as Russian Yevgeni Kissourin look on during their gold medal championship game at the World Championship of Basketball in the Skydome in Toronto (AFP photo)

med home dunks and blocked shots. Forceful blocks by Kemp and O'Neal brought wide-eyed looks from Russian starters Mikhail Mikhailov and Sergei Babkov, who led Russia with 22 points.

"This was important for the progress of basketball as a whole," Russian coach Sergei Belov said. "The rest of the world got to play the best of the world."

Croatia won the bronze medal, beating Greece 78-60 for third place. Dino Radja scored 22 points and Arijan Komazec added 21 points and nine assists for Croatia.

The game came just 13 hours after a 66-64 semi-final loss to Russia cost Croatia an expected spot in the final.

"It's not easy to play with motivation 12 hours after a difficult loss," Croatia's Toni Katic said. "I don't think they beat us as much as we beat ourselves. But third in the world is a big success for us."

Komazec scored 10 points in a 16-7 Croatia run to open the second half, pulling his team ahead 54-39 with 12 minutes remaining. Greece never came within 10 points after that.

"It wasn't a beauty of a game, but we played just well enough to win," Radja said. "We didn't show a good face, but it was hard after an emotional loss. This young country of only four million people has medals in the Olympics, European and world championships. We all have to be satisfied. After all these games, I think we can be happy."

Stojan Vrankovic had 11 points and 15 rebounds, Kukoc had 14 points, including back-to-back 3-point shots to start a 17-4 run that put Croatia ahead to stay just 6:38 into the game.

S. Africa aims to spoil Australian medals spree

VICTORIA, British Columbia (R) — South African swimmers, competing in their first Commonwealth Games for 36 years, aim to help spoil the Australian medals party when competition starts on Friday.

"The Australians have put the word about that they are going to win everything. That's upset a few teams," South African swimming coach Brian Graham said on Sunday.

With their 19 swimmers and barely two years experience back in international competition, South Africa can hardly expect to pose a serious threat to Australia's crack 45-strong squad.

But they have learned a lot since their disastrous first big international outing at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and

confidence is returning.

"Timings have improved a great deal in the last two years, since we've had more experience and motivation," said Graham. "Our target is five medals — perhaps two or three in the relays."

At the last Commonwealth Games in Auckland, New Zealand in 1990, Australia won 59 swimming medals, Canada 32, England 13 and New Zealand eight. Wales and Zimbabwe managed one apiece.

South Africa's hopes of spreading the medals a little more evenly this time rest on three individuals — Penny Heyns, ranked fourth in the world in the 100 metres breaststroke, Peter Williams in the 50 metres freestyle and Marianne Kriel in the 50 metres freestyle and 100

backstroke.

Heyns said she felt much more confident about her chances both in Victoria and at the World Championships in Rome next month than she had at the Olympics.

"I was really taken aback by everyone I was swimming against. I swam two seconds slower than my best," she said.

Kriel is convinced Heyns, now based in the United States, will win, with her added experience and maturity.

"It helps not to have the Americans and Chinese here," she commented. "We've been to as many international meets as we can. That's helped, with nerves especially."

During their years of isolation, South Africans had few

goals and little motivation.

"There was one big competition a year — the nationals. Now we have to aim for we can travel. It makes it all worth the hours we put in," Kriel said.

Despite the country's long coastline and balmy climate, swimming is not a high profile sport in South Africa and there are only two Olympic-sized indoor pools in the country.

Williams, who based himself in the United States for several years, has had to move to Durban from Johannesburg to be near one.

He has spent six years suffering from a shoulder injury and underwent surgery after the Barcelona Olympics. He aims now to return to top form in time for the 1996 Atlanta Games.



Shawn Kemp (left), Reggie Miller (middle), and Joe Dumars of the United States hold up their medals after winning the gold medal championship game at the World Championship of Basketball in the Skydome. The U.S. beat Russia 137-91 (AFP photo)

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